FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 1963

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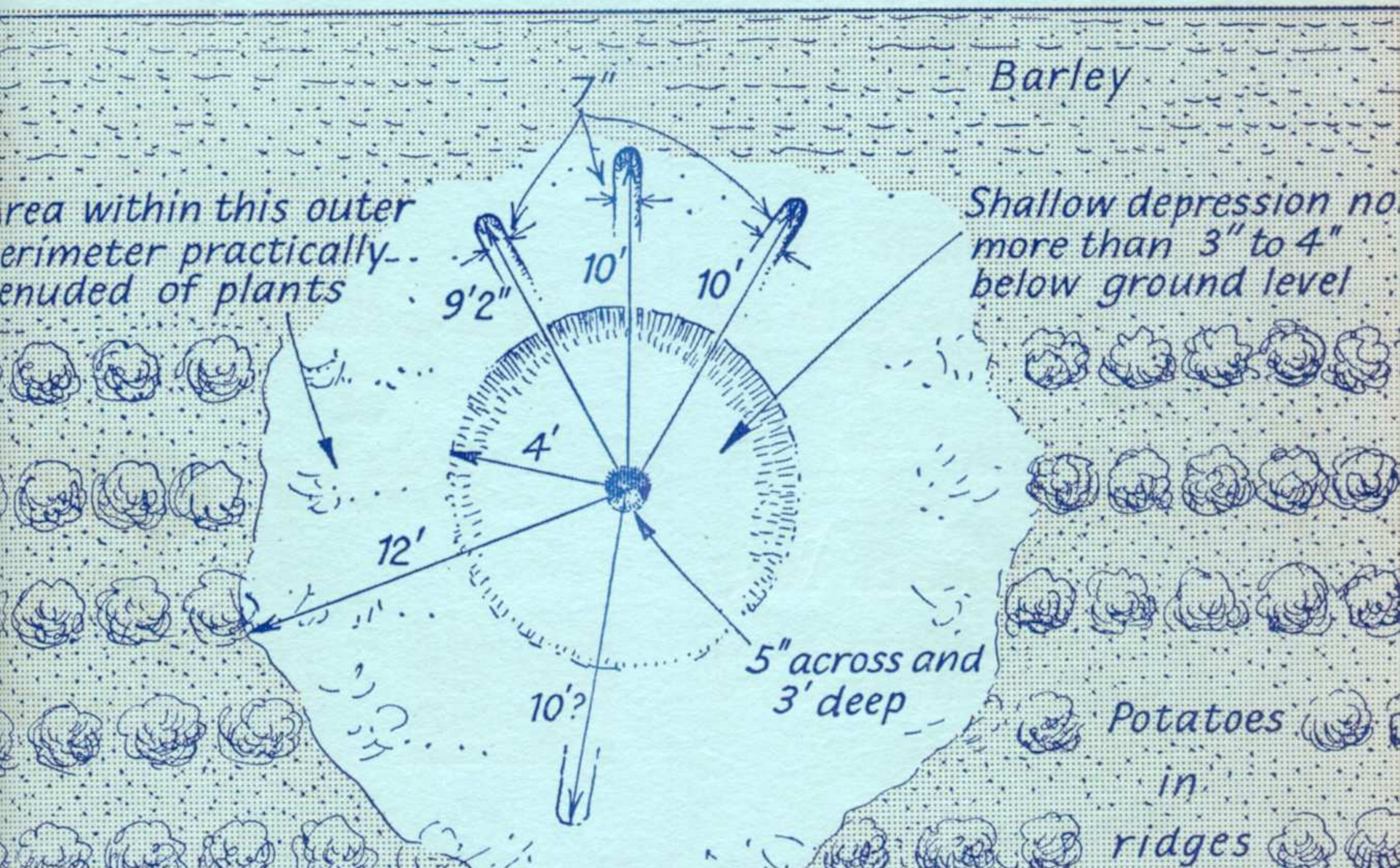

THE WILTSHIRE CRATER
FULL INSIDE STORY

The bi-monthly
Journal of
SPACE

Edited by
Waveney Girvan

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol. 9 No. 5 **SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER**

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Flying Saucer Review

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Faith versus Science

FOR some time past it has been obvious that among the students of the flying saucer phenomenon a division of opinion has become acute: it is as though two schools of thought, and two only, are contending for the crown. On the one hand there are those who accept the direct evidence of the contact claimants, and to these there is mystery no more. On the other, there are those who insist, patiently and with meticulous care and industry, on working from the ground upwards. Of the former group George Adamski is prototypical, of the latter Aimé Michel. The two types do not admire each other and it is interesting to understand why not. Only a very few of our readers seem to take a detached viewpoint. However, if we dare to brave the cross-fire of the two combatants we may be able to gain an illuminating perspective of the battle that is being waged between Faith and Science.

The contact folk base their appeal to our faith and it is noteworthy how seldom any concession is made to our reason. George Adamski is currently admitting to a trip to Saturn, but, when pressed for details (and who on Earth would not be avid for further enlightenment?), answers in generalities and offers cosmic philosophy instead. Philosophy is all very well, but most of our readers are interested in saucers: those of us who want philosophy turn to books and journals devoted to this study. The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is interested in flying saucers, not surprisingly perhaps, but it is an attitude that can be easily misunderstood. Furthermore, the little we have read about cosmic philosophy does not encourage us to persevere. We are inclined to agree with a contributor to our July-August issue when he referred to it as "pietist." Our own description would have been platitudinous to the point of a mild irritation. It is worthy enough, but compared with the thoughts of the great philosophers known to us it is very thin beer. We must admit that even if the visitors to this planet have constructed machines superior to our own we can still offer them the profounder thoughts. After all, constructing a better aeroplane is not the summit of human achievement. The poet still can soar on lighter wings than planners ever drew. The poor old Earth, it would seem, has still some valuable commerce to offer to our neighbours in space if inter-planetary travel is upon us.

There cannot be anything wrong in asking the contact claimants to match precise enquiry with exact reply. Man has been given a critical faculty—presumably for use. Why tell us about a trip to Saturn with a "take it or leave it" air? Why should we "take it"

on those terms? If the object of cosmic philosophy is to persuade us to a greater awareness of universal truth, then no more disastrous method could have been employed. It is an extraordinary way to go about converting a person by first insulting his intelligence. But that is precisely what is being done. It explains why those who rely solely upon the contact claims find themselves isolated. And why the majority remains either critical or openly hostile.

The scientific group is undoubtedly making remarkable progress in the task of conversion. It uses the language and the caution of the scientific method: it talks in terms that even the die-hard sceptic must, finally, accept. Michel's article on Global Orthoteny which appeared in our May-June issue was read by many who had previously closed their eyes, their ears and their minds to our subject. We have all wondered, at some time or another, how the truth about flying saucers could ever emerge. There is now one certain answer: orthoteny, if it can continue to be developed, must bring the subject first to respectability and finally to acceptance. Trips to Saturn will have to wait: you cannot arrive before you have started. If, when we do arrive, we find that George Adamski has been there first, the scientists will owe him an apology and nothing more. If he has to wait some time for recognition he will have only himself to blame. It will not just be that the claim was too much for his contemporaries to take. It will be that he made his claim in the wrong way.

Those who rely on faith as the key to turn the mystery will find the scientists' approach both tedious and slow. Their contempt for their opponents is equalled only by that of those who oppose them. No wonder one side hardly ever refers to the other. Throughout the world there are a number of journals and bulletins devoted to flying saucers. In only a very few of them can you read a balanced view. The cosmic philosophy mongers have no room for Michel. The scientists speak only with contempt of Adamski. While it is true that the former are making the greater headway at the moment, it is also true that the latter are better known. It cannot be denied, however, that those who wish to convert the greatest number of people must choose global orthoteny as the more efficient instrument. Once again, it matters much not only what one says but also the way in which one says it.

Perhaps it has appeared that it would be better to take the advice of the scientific group and to keep silent about these wild contact claims, to buy respectability at the price of suppression and to dismiss Adamski and his fellows as fantasts or something worse. This is tempting counsel, but for one consideration: it happens to be unscientific. It would ignore all the evidence which, whether we like it or not, favours Adamski in his earliest claim at least. And this favourable evidence, argue you as you may, cannot be denied. Time passes and first principles are forgotten, but there is evidence that his photographs cannot have been pure invention or even the image of a lamp-shade. There are at least three classic sightings in England alone that go to support this statement. On another page we recite this evidence in support of the photograph. Until the scientific group can destroy, by methods of their own election, a doubt remains. That doubt until that time remains most firmly in George Adamski's favour.

Perils of Weekly Journalism

"The decision to deal with the Charlton mystery hole as a straight forward meteorite affair must be disappointing news to some. When I saw it, one man was excitedly taking cine-camera shots, while another was quickly turning the pages of the *Flying Saucer Review*. A third, gazing steadily down the hole, refused to leave with his friends, saying he wanted to stay there 'and just think about it all.'" *Punch*, July 31, 1963.

THE WILTSHIRE CRATER MYSTERY

The meteorite that never was

by Waveney Girvan

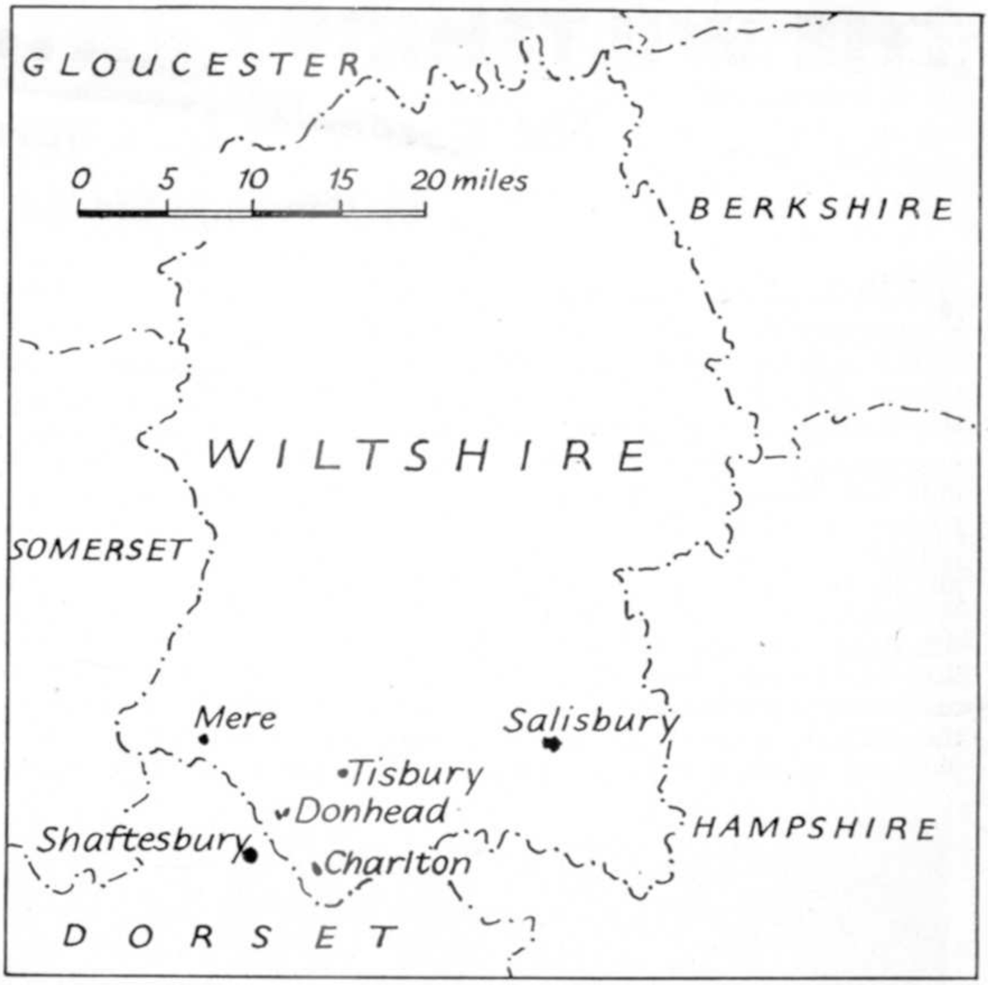
JULY 16, 1963, will long be remembered in the annals of British UFOlogy. It brought the subject of flying saucers back into the headlines of the newspapers, attracting widespread comment and speculation and leaving the sceptics bewildered. That was not all: it exposed once and for all the deception practised by Whitehall upon the public and the Press. Although the mystery was occasionally bedevilled by inaccurate reporting at the time, the picture is now reasonably clear as to what actually happened both in public and behind the scenes.

Something appeared to have landed on Farmer Roy Blanchard's field at the Manor Farm, Charlton, Wiltshire.* The marks on the ground were first discovered by a farmworker, Reg Alexander. They overlapped a potato field and a barley field. The marks comprised a saucer-shaped depression or crater eight feet in diameter and about four inches in depth. In the centre of this depression there was found a three feet deep hole variously described as from five inches to one foot in diameter. Radiating from the central hole were four slot marks, four feet long and one foot wide. The object must have landed—if landed it did—unseen, but Mr. Leonard Joliffe, a dairyman on the farm, reported he heard a blast one morning at approximately 6 a.m. It is not known whether this noise had any connection with the mystery.

* The Manor Farm, Charlton, is in Wiltshire not Dorset. The confusion in many reports was caused by the fact that the postal address is Charlton, near Shaftesbury, Dorset.

Copyright: A. J. Bealing, Shaftesbury, Dorset

The crater photographed soon after discovery.



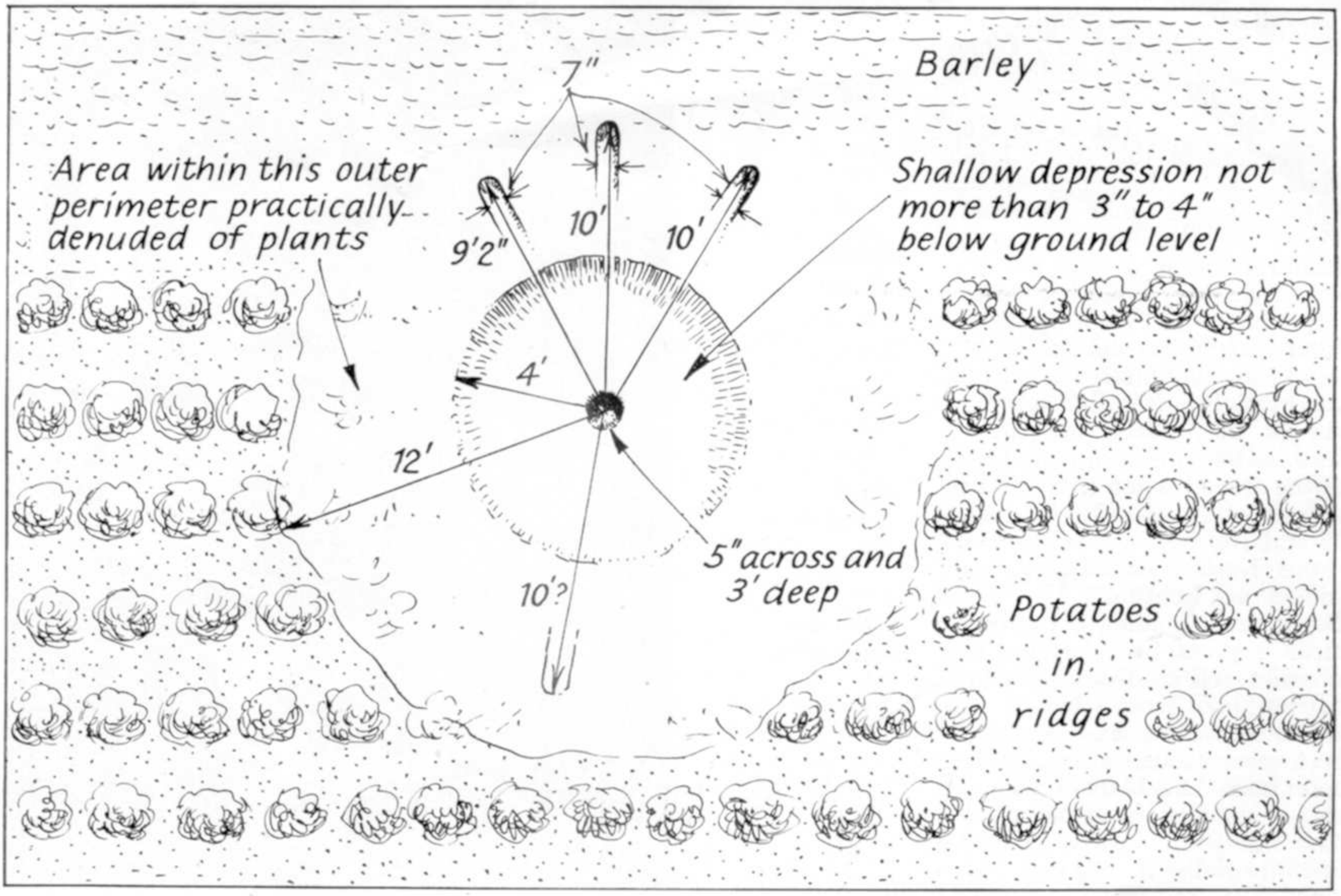
Farmer Roy Blanchard is a man of sound commonsense. He sent for the police who, in turn, summoned the Army. Captain John Rogers, chief of the Army Bomb Disposal Unit, of Horsham, Sussex, arrived on the scene to conduct investigations. It is necessary in view of certain criticisms that will be made later to say that the brave men who undertake these dangerous operations deserve nothing but the highest praise. It is a pity that their work should have become involved in mystification resulting from official policy.

Captain Rogers's preliminary report indicated that there were no burn or scorch marks, nor any trace of an explosion. "My superior and I are baffled," was all he could say. Farmer Roy Blanchard was more forthright. "There isn't a trace of the potatoes and barley which were growing where the crater is now. No stalks, no leaves, no roots," he pointed out, adding: "The thing was heavy enough to crush rocks and stones to powder. Yet it came down gently. We heard no crash and whatever power it uses produces no heat or noise. I believe that we have received a visit from a spaceship from another world." (See *Daily Sketch*, July 17.) When interviewed by Mr. Gordon Creighton on behalf of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Mr. Blanchard gave the impression that he had been warned to restrict his comments. When asked what was his opinion of the cow found with burn marks on its hide, he quickly answered that that had nothing to do with the case and that he knew what had caused the damage. When Mr. Creighton told him that similar occurrences in Brazil had caused a drop in the milk yield, Mr. Blanchard, not unnaturally, said he was very sorry to learn this.

On July 19, it was reported that Captain Rogers had sought permission from his superiors to sink a shaft and said that his readings so far were rather unusual and indicated a metallic object of some size, deeply embedded. He added: "We have never encountered anything like this before." One of his men later told reporters that his detector behaved wildly. This is a crucial point in the mystery in view of the sequel. In these two statements lies perhaps the vital clue.

It was fortunate that the investigations were initially carried out by the Army and not the Air Ministry. Otherwise the cloak of official secrecy would have descended much earlier. At this stage the investigation was open and above board. The Southern Command Public Relations Officer at Salisbury told me that a small piece of metal had early on been recovered from the hole but that it held no special significance.

In the *Southern Evening Echo* of July 20, the name of Dr. Robert Randall first appeared and it was he who first propounded the "spacecraft from Uranus" theory. Subsequently, other newspapers suggested that he was officially helping the Bomb Disposal Unit to solve the mystery. After Dr. Randall's appearance on television, the *Daily Telegraph* on July 24 printed his theory that a three-legged spaceship from Uranus had landed in the field for repairs. In other papers it was reported that he was an astro-physicist from Woomera, Australia. When I telephoned Dr. Randall, however, he denied having made such claims though he had lived at Woomera. He also denied that he was a physicist, but claimed to be a medical doctor. Further enquiries disclosed that he was, or had been, a process-chaser at Vickers aircraft factory at Weybridge, Surrey. Later, he became rather elusive and for the purposes of this story we must bid him a temporary farewell. Our enquiries, however, continue. The mystery of Dr. Randall remains — the solution may be simple or it may be more pro-



found—but his intervention must not be allowed to confuse the main stream of the narrative.

On July 23, the *Daily Express* reported that it had become known that the village policeman, Police Constable Anthony Penny, stated that he had seen an orange object flash through the sky on July 10 and vanish near the field in which the strange marks were found. He had not reported this fact earlier as he had been on holiday. Meanwhile investigations continued and the matter was given very serious attention as was proved by the fact that Dr. John Lishman, medical officer for health for Mere and Tisbury rural council, had been called in to discover if there was any hazard to health.

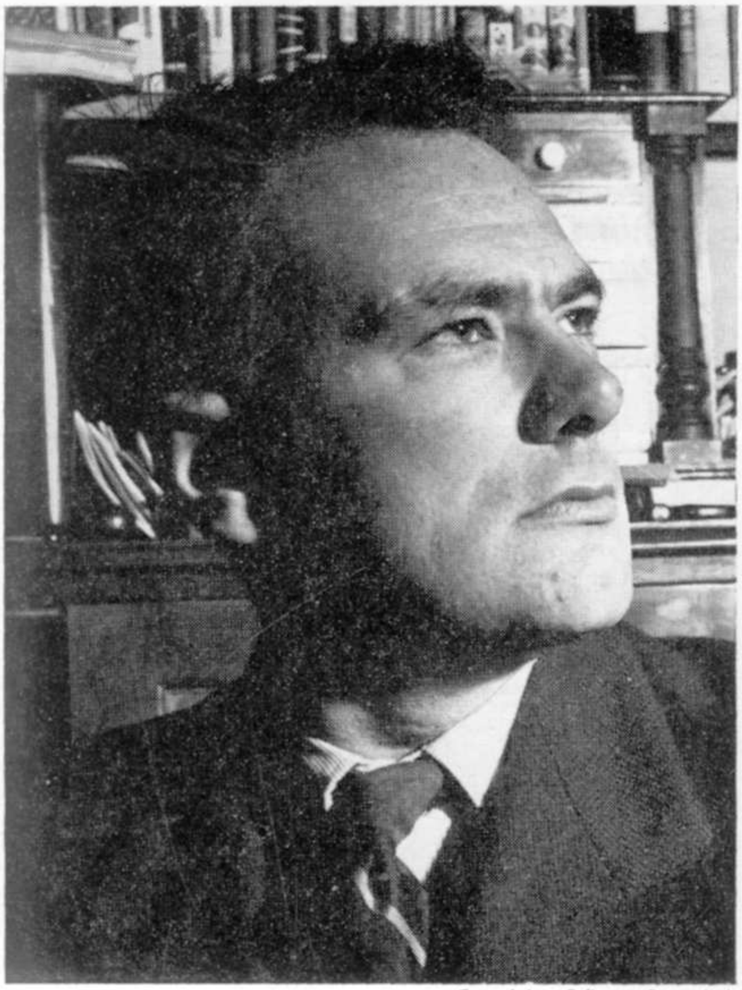
It was not very difficult to prophesy what would happen next, particularly when it was reported that two Air Force officials had arrived on the scene. It was obviously no use pretending that a weather balloon had made a hole in the ground and had penetrated to some six feet. It was bound to be a meteorite and when the object was finally dug up, with Mr. Patrick Moore present, the object was in a way buried all over again. Mr. Moore's verdict: "It is something from outer space and almost certainly a meteorite, though a shrimp-sized one compared with many others on record. However, by crashing down at something like 45 miles per hour it would have turned itself into a very effective explosive, and its blast effect would account for the peculiar 'wheel with spokes' shape of the crater." (See the *Guardian*, July 26.) The Southern Command announced that the half-pound lump of matter was being sent to the British Museum for investigation. It should be remembered that Patrick Moore had already committed himself to the opinion on television that the object was a meteorite and as a fanatical opponent of the flying saucers he would be determined to seize upon any possibility to debunk them.

The one part of Patrick Moore's statement which was to be proved accurate was the shrimp-like size. By comparison, the crater was a veritable whale. It was impossible that the former could have caused the latter. Neither could it have caused the four radiating slot marks.

Time was running short. Previous and similar experiences had taught me how difficult it is to revive a story that has been killed. (Authority, no doubt, relies upon this as part of its technique in blocking information.) While it is true that Southern Command and Patrick Moore had protected themselves with a "probably," the public would tend to ignore this and accept the meteorite as the final explanation. Action that day, July 26, was imperative. But what action?

Of all unlikely people, Dr. Menzel came to my aid. I had that morning been reading his fascinating book, *The World of Flying Saucers,* which is referred to elsewhere in this issue. I felt certain that this professional sceptic would not overlook meteors as possible sources of misinterpretation. I was not disappointed: he devoted a section of the book to this subject. He added that it was difficult to disabuse the witnesses because meteors very often burn out as soon as they reach our atmosphere. Only infrequently can they be traced when they land in the form of a meteorite. On pages 102 and 103 of his book he refers to the Norton County, Kansas, incident of February 18, 1948, when a fireball (allegedly causing saucer reports) was seen. The meteorite fell in Furnas County and weighed more than a ton and had made a six-foot crater. The impact occurred in a field. I quote from Dr. Menzel who, in turn, is quoting from an article, "Tracing the Norton, Kansas, Meteorite Fall," in *Sky and Telescope,* Vol. vii (1948), p. 294, which refers to the field as: ". . . so overgrown with weeds that even the large crater made by the record-breaking main mass of fall was finally located only when by chance a caterpillar tractor started to fall into it." Two points immediately struck me. A meteorite weighing more than a ton had made a six-foot crater, yet a "shrimp" weighing half a pound had done much better with eight feet. In the Kansas case, the vegetation had not disappeared.

Patrick Moore, F.R.A.S., F.R.S.A. Expert's opinion: "Shrimp-sized . . . crashing down at . . . 45 miles per second."



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Armed with these facts, I telephoned Southern Command at Salisbury to confirm the weight of the Charlton object. I began to notice a great reluctance to answer my questions openly and it became obvious that the P.R.O. wanted to wash his hands of the whole affair. I became more and more suspicious. I therefore decided to inform a colleague of mine, the Science Editor of a national newspaper. By a lucky chance he knew the expert at the British Museum to whom the object had been sent for investigation and he was promptly informed that the object was a piece of common or garden ironstone which could be found buried all over Southern England. On further enquiries, I was told by Southern Command that this was the case. I then asked if they proposed to issue a correction, but the reply indicated that this was not their job, nor would they say who would or could give the facts to the public. To prevent the story being killed I informed the Press Association in London and a number of newspapers individually. It was in this way that, through various media, on July 27 the public learnt that the object found in the Manor Farm field was not a meteorite. For the first time, the sequence of mystery followed by "explanaion" and culminating in silence had been broken. The accusation against authority is not in the first place for having misled the public (though why a meteorite should even "probably" be offered in explanation before it was investigated is suspicious in itself) but, when the real truth was known, in not putting the record straight. In another day's time all attempts to explode the "explanation" would have been frustrated.

It is significant that Dr. F. G. F. Claringbull, Keeper of the Department of Mineralogy at the British Museum, who finally destroyed the meteorite explanation prefers to keep an open mind on the subject and made this significant remark: "There is more in this than meets the eye." (See *Yorkshire Post,* July 27.) Students of the flying saucers will be heartened to know that many scientists of repute are becoming less and less inclined to scoff at the saucers.

There are a number of lessons to be learnt from the Manor Farm mystery. Editors of newspapers, for the most part, are much too easily hoodwinked on the subject of flying saucers. They never get the hang of the

three-card trick: they always draw weather balloon or meteorite, never the flying saucer. The time to start probing is after the "explanation" and not only before.

The investigator can learn a trick or two as well. Investigation on the spot is always valuable but it should be conducted with caution. Ask questions but give no opinion at an early stage. Remember that someone, somewhere, is planning a way to kill every flying saucer story and to make the UFOlogist look silly. It may not be Heaven that sends "experts" like Patrick Moore and "Dr." Robert Randall to try us. It could be some other agency. To knock down Aunt Sally you must first find someone to erect the poor old lady. The lunatic fringe we cannot control, so let the sun-worshippers and the cultists sacrifice themselves if someone has to go. Gazing into craters is valuable work, but it is the "explanation" that has to be watched above everything.

The importance of the piece of ironstone now becomes apparent. If ordinary ironstone is widely distributed and highly magnetic, then the Bomb Disposal Unit's detector would not be of much use. If violent reactions were obtained from the Charlton object then it must have been magnetised in some way, perhaps by proximity to a force field. This proves, in the first place, that the whole affair was not a hoax. Some evidence would surely have been apparent on the surface of the field, but nobody can suggest that the ironstone had been planted: the British Museum suggested that it had been buried in the ground for some time. Borrowing some of Patrick Moore's caution (but armed with sounder information) I would say that in all probability a machine of unknown origin landed in Farmer Blanchard's field some time in July and then took off again. The behaviour of the Army goes a long way to support this theory. The sense of the matter rests with Farmer Blanchard who, when faced with conventional "explanations" replied: "But where have my crops gone?" Where indeed?

A chastened Southern Command commented: "The cause of the phenomena is still unexplained but it is no part of the Army's task to unravel such mysteries." (*Western Daily Press*, Bristol, July 27.) At last authority has admitted that there is a mystery! Perhaps in future it will be even more cautious and tell the public the plain truth without the trimmings. On July 30 I was able to give the public the basic facts on B.B.C. Television.

The facts quoted above were communicated immediately to Major Wall, Conservative M.P. for Haltemprice, who had put down a question on the subject in the House of Commons. The Government's answer was now highly satisfactory. The crater is a complete mystery. Major Wall is to persevere and is to ask whether further investigation is to be carried out.

One of the still unsolved problems is the exact role played in the mystery by Robert Randall. All UFO investigators should give the matter a top priority.

The reason why Robert Randall and his Uranus theory were given such publicity was because he seemed to have been "adopted" by the Bomb Disposal Unit. Sergeant James Reith of that Unit declared that he knew his name and had met him at Woomera. "You can take his name as an authority on flying saucers." The P.R.O. Southern Command at Salisbury now explains this curious endorsement as being due to the excitement of the moment. It will be noted that it was not just Randall's face that was familiar, it was his qualifications and his place of employment. But for this remark, and others, "Dr." Randall would never have been quoted on television nor, in all seriousness, in the *Daily Telegraph* on July 24. It is interesting to ask, if excitement on what the Army describes as a routine job leads to a misinterpretation of this magnitude, what would happen if the men of the Bomb Disposal Squad got really worked up. The reply given to me about the whereabouts of the piece of local ironstone may have a double significance: "We have no further interest in it. All we could do with it would be to whitewash it and put it in the Sergeants' Mess."

Notes

Main references: *Daily Sketch*, July 17 and 22; *Southern Evening Echo*, July 17 and 19; *Daily Express*, July 17, 19, 20, 22 and 23; *Daily Mail*, July 20 and 22; *The Times*, July 19; *Yorkshire Post*, July 19, 24 and 27; The *Guardian*, July 18, 23 and 24; The *Daily Telegraph*, July 23, 24, 26 and 27; *Daily Mirror*, July 26; *Western Daily Press*, July 27.

I am indebted to Mr. C. A. Stickland, Information Officer of the London UFO Research Organisation, for the sketch map reproduced in accompaniment of this article. He asks for details of any sightings in the area from mid-June to mid-July. His address is 22 Roseberry Street, London, S.E.16.

The sequence of events in the mystery of Randallism is in danger of being overlooked. It is as follows:

1. Crater discovered by Farmer Blanchard.
2. Military arrive to investigate.
3. "Dr." Randall appears on scene.
4. Randall endorsed by Bomb Disposal Sergeant Reith.
5. Randall appears on television with space ship theory. *Daily Telegraph* next day (July 24) publishes straightforward interview elaborating this theory.
6. Randall contradicted by meteorite "explanation."
7. Disappearance of Randall.
8. No meteorite after all. Randall, once so confident and now vindicated, remains incommunicado. Why should he be so shy now that he is re-established? Surely human nature being what it is, he would in the normal way turn upon his detractors.

POSTSCRIPT TO THE CHARLTON CRATER

What Mr. Selwood saw

WRITING in the *Dorset Evening Echo* on July 27, Leslie Mace wrote: "The mystery of the Charlton hole, near Shaftesbury, deepens. It wasn't made by a bomb and the meteorite theory has been exploded. That brings speculation right back to the visitors from another planet." As a result, one witness, at least, has come forward to give testimony which might otherwise have been withheld for the usual reason—ridicule.

It is not, of course, known exactly when the Charlton crater was made, but it was discovered on July 16 and reported in the national press the day after. On July 14, Mr. Frank Selwood of 72 Albert Road, Parkstone, Dorset * may well have seen the object that caused the crater discovered in a field at the Manor Farm, Charlton.

Mr. Selwood told the *Dorset Evening News*: "I woke up at about 3 a.m. on Sunday, July 14, looked out of the bedroom window and there towering over a large gasholder at the rear of the recreation ground at the back of my house was a huge cigar-shaped object as big as four terraced houses. It was wider than the gasholder and hovered for about 2½ minutes 300 feet up. In the middle of it was an intermittent flashing wavy blue-green light. I returned to the window after unsuccessfully trying to wake my wife up and it was still there. I could hear a quiet sort of whistle coming from it and flapping sounds. It sounded as if the motor, or whatever it was, was running rough — like a broken down dynamo. It continued to hover then suddenly the motor sprang into life, the intermittent light became continuous along the object's entire length, and it made off towards the west at a fantastic speed: faster than any jet I had ever seen." Mr. Selwood was asked if he had informed the police, but he replied: "What was the use, they would not have believed me."

Our investigator, Mr. F. T. Marshall, interviewed Mr. Selwood and discovered the reason for his restlessness that night. He is a young married man, aged 30, with two young daughters and had got up to tend the younger one. It was about 3.10 a.m. and he was amazed to see a darkish object approaching from the east. When 500 yards or so away it stopped at the estimated height of 300 feet. It was quite stationary but made a noise which sounded like "a squeaky bearing in a running dynamo." Running from its two extremities was a varying bluish light described as "like a mercury arc rectifier." Mr. Selwood admitted that he was scared and his fingers stiff from gripping the window frame.

* Parkstone is approximately 25 miles south-east of Charlton.

RANDALLISM IN BRISTOL?

ON July 29, the *Western Daily Press* published in Bristol, reported two mysterious incidents in the sky above the city early in the morning. The first appeared to be a glowing orange ball and was seen by many people and photographed by staff photographer Graham Kilsby. Later it seemed to return to the sky and then shot off, according to some witness, at "teriffic speed" upwards and over the Bristol Channel. The *Western Mail* published in Cardiff on the other side of the channel said that witnesses had reported the object over Lavernock Point.

Next morning, July 30, the *Western Daily Press* reported the alleged explanation—it was a flaming balloon let off in the "interest of science" by Rhodesian-born Murray Alexander, apprentice at the Bristol Aeroplane Company. Some other reports mentioned that he had attached a piece of carpet to his balloon and set fire to it. This has apparently been uncritically accepted, but as the newspapers will never ask the right questions (they have been indoctrinated against our subject by a series of phoney explanations over the years) we ask our Bristol readers to find out more about this curious incident. In the interests of what science did Mr. Murray commit his public nuisance? For how long has he indulged in his unnamed and, we would think, rather dangerous science? Is he now satisfied with his experiments or does he intend to pursue them? If so, does he intend to warn the police about his activities in advance in order to prevent the spread of stories about those little green men so dear to the heart of gullible reporters?

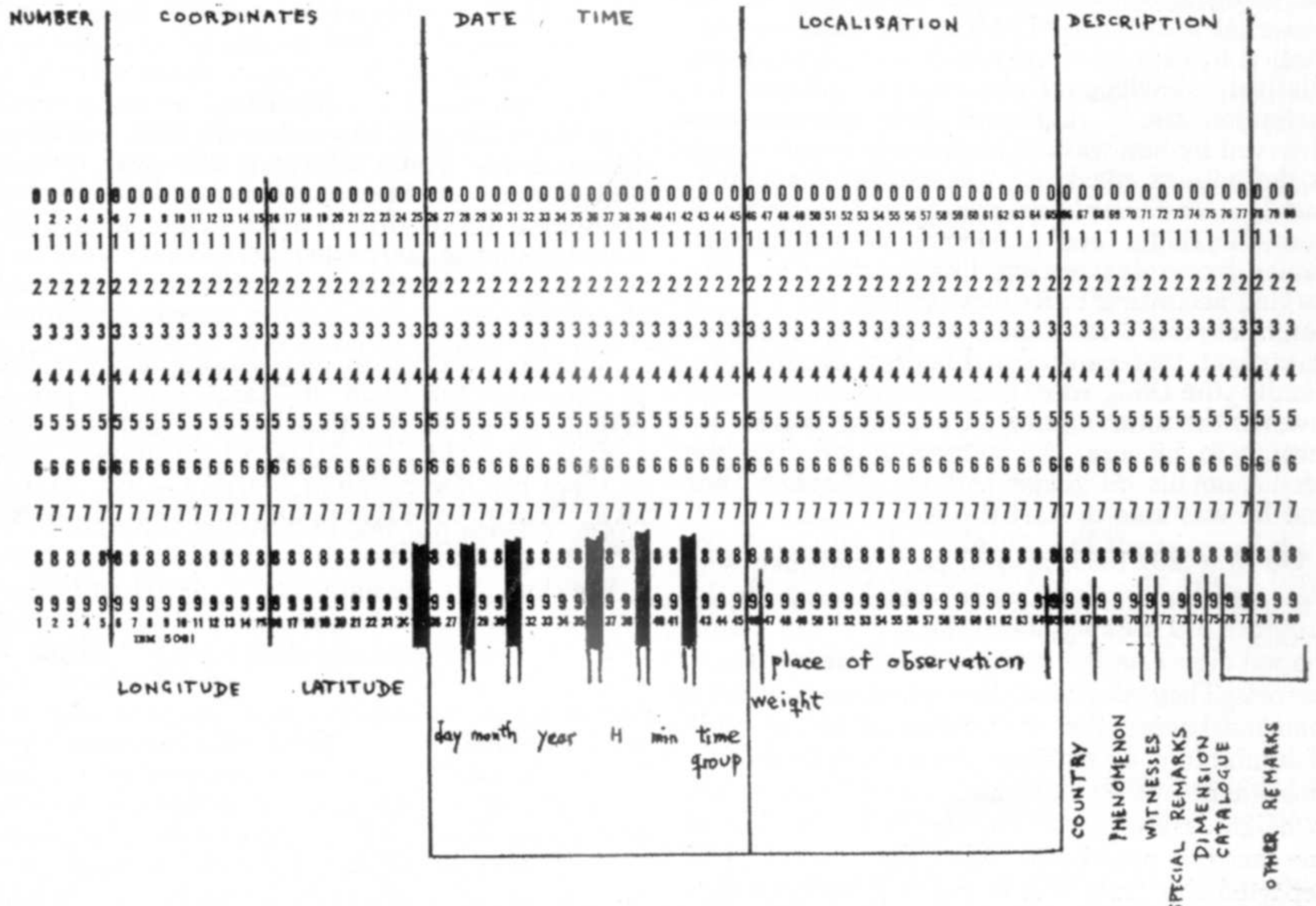
The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW does not pretend to know what Bristolians saw in their sky. But after the Wiltshire crater attempted hoax upon the public we suggest that all newspapers should become rather more suspicious about the explanations than they have been in the past. The questions we are now asking should have been put to Mr. Alexander by the members of the press who pride themselves upon their perspicacity but who are, it seems, only too ready to fall for a lump of any old iron that is offered to their great big, open-hearted, trusting souls.

HOW TO CLASSIFY AND CODIFY SAUCER SIGHTINGS

by Jacques Vallée

THE files of "flying saucer" sightings which are being maintained and kept up to date in many countries have now become so voluminous that the question of how to achieve the systematic classification, codification, and exploitation of the files presents itself as a major problem at the present stage of investigation of the phenomenon. I myself came up against this problem when I wanted to regroup the French sightings of 1954 with a view to checking, by analytical methods, the comments offered by Aimé Michel in his book *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery**, and I should like to present here a few pointers concerning the method which we have developed for solving the problem—a method that could serve as a basis or a point of reference for other investigators.

The introduction of a codification system is justified by the fact that, although varying in the manner in which they are reported, the sightings can all be reduced to a limited number of well-defined types, showing various specific differences, but with characteristics which recur throughout the whole field under investigation.



Specimen Codification Card.

I have therefore given the denotation " Type I Sighting " to such manifestations of the phenomenon as consist of the observation, by the witnesses, of an unusual image, namely a device which is spherical or discoid in shape, or possibly even more complex than this, such device being on the ground or close to the ground. This image may or may not be associated with physical effects of a thermic, or luminous, or purely material (i.e. traces) kind. This type of sighting is encountered throughout the whole history of the flying saucer phenomenon—inclusive of the most recent period—and is not confined to the autumn of 1954 as is sometimes believed to be the case. Let us give a few examples.

We will begin by giving the testimony (as communicated by Mr. Cristian Vogt) of an official of the Provincial Senate of the Province of Buenos Aires, in the Argentine Republic, who was driving his 1946 Ford car along the road between Unsue and Bolivar on August 8, 1958, when his engine suddenly stalled. His dash-board clock stopped, showing 1.27 a.m. The witness got out to find the cause of the breakdown, cleaned the distributor-heads, and then tried to get the car going again, but in vain. Only then did he notice, at a distance of 300 or 400 metres, what seemed to be a machine which was approaching relatively slowly, and close to the ground. He thereupon put his lights off. The phenomenon observed by him was not completely symmetrical, as the witness speaks of a flatness of the " hind-part "; a tenuous phosphorescence was given off from the thing. The phenomenon was accompanied by a soft whirring, like the noise of a fan varying according to its movements. The witness describes this " machine " as having a cupola or cockpit that emitted a blinding bluish light. Finally ,the thing rose, at a " staggering " speed, towards the south, giving off whistling noises. Returning to his car, the witness found that the needle on his oil-gauge had gone " crazy," but that he was able to start the engine again.

On May 20, 1959, at 5.30 p.m., two men who were out hunting saw, near Tres Lomas, in the Province of La Pampa (also the Argentine) a disc-shaped object on the ground, at a distance of 150 metres. They describe the phenomenon as a machine having the appearance of being made of aluminium or of some silvery metal or even of brilliant frosted glass, and from 2 to 2½ metres in height. Here too a " cupola " with a radius of one metre is mentioned. After the " object " had departed the grass was found to have been flattened.

We will give the category of " Type II Sighting " to eyewitness accounts in which it is reported that they have seen a vertical " cylindrical form " in the sky, associated with a diffused cloud. This type of sighting has been given various names, such as " Large Vertical Cigar," " Cloud Sphere," or " Cloud Cigar."

Within Type II, two categories are to be distinguished, which we designate IIa and IIb. The first-named of these will contain all sightings of vertical cylindrical forms moving in the atmosphere in a more or less erratic manner. The second will group together sightings of the same sort of forms when they are stationary and when they give rise to secondary phenomena related in general to the type designated below as Type IV.

Typical cases of Type IIa sightings are furnished by the following eyewitness accounts: at Pouilly-sur-Vingeanne (near Dôle, in France) on July 18 or 19, 1952, at 6 p.m., residents of Pouilly and Vénarey-les-Launnes reported that they saw " a spindle-shaped thing, with neither wings nor protuberances, emitting at regular intervals a brief and powerful flash, and giving off a very dense white smoke which quickly dissipated." The witnesses describe this spindle as having an apparent length of 30 metres, and as being in a vertical position and emitting a fairly loud rumbling noise. On November 27, 1954, between 4.15 and 4.30 p.m., witnesses who were on the Red Square at Moscow saw a " machine of cylindrical form " to the north-west, at an estimated height of 200 or 300 metres. The witnesses reported that the thing rose up " with the speed of a jet plane," while assuming a vertical position.

Numerous examples of sightings of Type IIb are given in the cases of " large cigars " painstakingly recorded by Michel in his *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery**: examples such as those at Oloron Sainte Marie, Gaillac, Montlevic, Poncey-sur-l'Ignon, and Domérat, and also the case at Vernon.

We shall give the name of " Type III Sighting " to any case where an allegedly abnormal " object," of spherical, discoidal or elliptical shape, is reported to have been observed stationary in the atmosphere. And, in particular, we shall designate as a " Type IIIa Sighting " any Type III case where the immobility of the " object " occurs between two periods of motion, and is associated with a movement of erratic, broken, descent of the " object " towards the vicinity of the surface of the earth, or " falling dead leaf descent."

A sighting which took place at Alès (France) at 11.45 a.m. on October 9, 1954, falls into Type III: several eyewitnesses, one of whom was M. Taurelle who works in the Riche-Hotel, report that they saw a stationary "saucer" turning in the air upon its own axis, before disappearing rapidly at an ever-increasing speed. Likewise a sighting at Yaoundé (French Cameroons) on October 28, 1954, by numerous persons of that town, of whom one was the head of the hospital, refers to "an enormous stationary disc, powerfully illuminated." This "object" is described as mushroom-shaped, and carrying beneath it a cylinder of a length equal to its own diameter, which was dangling from it.

Finally, we shall apply the category "Type IV Sighting" to sightings where an abnormal "object," corresponding to one of the forms described above, has been seen in continuous movement through the air, regardless of whatever accelerations, variations in luminosity, secondary rotations, etc., may have been associated with such movement.

Such a classification as this introduces at once an appreciable simplification of the statistical examination of flying saucer reports, and throws a certain amount of light on the methods by which a purely physical investigation as to the actual nature of the images or objects observed could be conducted. It is clear that the Type IV sightings are the ones that are most subject to caution, confusion being very frequently possible with material or non-material physical phenomena, whether of human or natural origin, hastily invoked to "explain" the phenomenon: i.e. ball-lightning, reflections from car headlights, mirages, so far as physical non-material causes are concerned. And meteorites, flying machines of human construction, sonde-balloons, flights of birds, exceptional meteorological phenomena or even astronomical objects deformed by an erroneous interpretation (Mars, or Jupiter, or the Moon) where material physical causes are present, and including, more recently, the artificial satellites of the Earth.

If, however, one considers the sightings of the first three Types, and especially those classed under I, IIb, and IIIa, it is clear that hallucination and hoax are in actual fact the only possible interpretations if we exclude the hypothesis of an objective physical cause that is still unknown.

This classification consequently introduces a great simplification in the work of analysis, but in my opinion its essential interest resides in the fact that it in no way involves any preconceived notions as to the nature—be it physical, or purely psychic or psychological—of the phenomenon in question, and the fact that, *a fortiori*, it in no way presupposes the existence of a material object at the root of these sightings. Consequently, we insist fundamentally that the broad generality of this method be noted.

Codification of secondary characteristics

We have described above a classification of sightings according to different types, based on the essential features of the phenomenon as described in the reports of witnesses. But now we need to have available a practical method of recording—in as compact a form as possible—the secondary characteristics of the sighting, such as, for example, the number of witnesses present, or the existence of marks and traces.

I will therefore describe the system used by us at present for the registering of sightings on punched cards, this system being clearly utilisable—without any essential modifications—within the framework of whatever system of classification one may desire.

As my diagram shows, we begin by punching in columns 1 to 5 the number allotted to the sighting (usually in the chronological order of the lists), and then the co-ordinates (longitude and latitude in that order, expressed in decimal degrees and based on the Greenwich meridian) in all cases where these have been precisely established.

Next we find the date and the time of the phenomenon, in hours and minutes, followed by a three-figure number which we call the "hour group." The first digit indicates the time-system to which timing refers: 1 for local time, 0 for world-time (*temps universel*), 2 when the time is approximately known, on an average to within two hours, plus or minus. The two following digits give the length of the sighting in minutes, 99 being taken by convention to indicate that the reported duration was in excess of one hour and a half.

Next we give the indication of the place of the sighting, placed in brackets in a case where the alleged "object" has been seen stationary at a low altitude (less than 50 metres), which we class in our system as a Type I phenomenon. This indication may be preceded by a minus sign (–) if the sighting is doubtful, or by an asterisk (*) if the eye witness is a person of indubitable scientific or technical education, or if the sighting has been confirmed by an investigation by the Gendarmerie or Armed Forces.

Next a group of two letters indicates the country or region of the world where the sighting took place.

The following seven figures or letters constitute the code itself, and give the details of the sighting.

The code indicating the *nature* of the sighting occupies columns 68-69-70 of the card, following the under-mentioned convention :

Sighting	Col. 68	Col. 69	Col. 70
Type I classic ...	0	No. of "pilots"	No. of craft
Type I at sea ...	1	0	No. of craft
Type IIb ...	1	1	No. of small secondary objects
Type IIa ...	1	2	Blank
"Jellyfish - saucer"	1	3	No. of craft
"Jellyfish - saucer" with a part touching the ground	1	4	same convention
Type IV ...	1	5	same convention
Type III ...	3	0	same convention
Suspicious luminous phenomenon ...	1	8	Blank

The number of witnesses is next shown by a figure at position 71, following the under-mentioned convention:

0 ...... report given by an aircraft
1, 2, 3, 4, 5 ...... respectively: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 witnesses
6 ...... about ten witnesses
7 ...... several tens of witnesses
8 ...... hundreds of witnesses
9 ...... thousands of witnesses

We have reserved columns 72-73 for special sightings coded as follows:

	without photo or film	*with photo*
Sighting by a pilot in flight	0	5
Sighting made separately by radar	1	6
Indisputable traces ...	2	7
Electromagnetic effects ...	3	8
Any other interesting physical sighting	4	9

In column 74 we give the dimensions suggested by the witnesses, in accordance with the following code:

0 .... a few tens of centimetres
1 .... 1 to 2 metres
2 .... 2 to 5 metres
3 .... 5 to 10 metres
4 .... 10 to 20 metres
5 .... 20 to 30 metres
6 .... 30 to 60 metres
7 .... 60 to 100 metres
8 .... about 100 metres
9 .... immense

The last columns of the card are reserved for indications of the catalogue or list from which the sighting is taken, for notes on various properties of the sightings (notes which could vary according to the type of research envisaged and which we do not consider it of any use to discuss at the present moment).

Conclusion

Our aim in this article has been to set forth briefly a few principles which can be used in the classification and coding of flying saucer sightings, while being careful not to pre-judge the fundamental nature of the phenomenon, which has been the subject of numerous discussions and does not appear likely, in our view, to receive a final elucidation in any near future. In the course of our own studies, we have acquired a certain experience of the problem of statistical treatment of coding of sightings, and it would seem to us imprudent to affirm that the system of coding presented herein should be retained as definitive. However, while modifications may be considered in the classification of secondary characteristics—which we have described quite roughly (an improved system giving, in particular, detailed information as to shape, colour, and certain other features of the sightings is at present being studied). On the other hand, the division into the Types which we have indicated in our introductory paragraphs does seem indeed to correspond to a fundamental distribution of the qualitative features in the phenomenon in which we are interested.

* The French edition carried the title *Mystérieux objets Celestes.*

PERSONAL COLUMN

LUFORO BRAINS TRUST: Caxton Hall, Westminster: 7.30 p.m., Saturday, September 28. Admission to non-members: 3s. 6d.

The BRITISH UFO ASSOCIATION comprises eleven UFO societies. For details of membership and Journal, write to: 12 Dorset Road, Cheam, Surrey.

A SPEECH BY WILBERT B. SMITH

With the death of Wilbert B. Smith on December 27, 1962, Ufology lost one of its most honoured investigators. Even those who disagreed with his views paid tribute to his integrity and the open-minded approach he brought to the bewildering array of evidence. The article which follows is a transcript of a tape-recorded speech which Mr. Smith delivered at Ottawa, Canada, on March 31, 1958. It is hoped that FLYING SAUCER REVIEW may be able to print another of his recorded speeches not only for its intrinsic interest but also as a tribute to a highly respected man. We are grateful to the Vancouver Flying Saucer Club for their assistance in the reproduction of this speech.

I HAVE been actively engaged in the investigation of the group of phenomena known as flying saucers for over two years. During this period I have read most of the available literature on the subject, interviewed a great many people who have seen unusual things in the sky, examined many pictures and physical objects, made observations with scientific instruments, and carried on a series of communications with intelligences claiming to be extra-terrestrial.

I started the investigation out of curiosity, and as an extreme sceptic, fully expecting to find the phenomena to be due to man-made or natural causes. I am 48 years old, hold a Master's degree in electrical engineering, occupy a responsible position in the Canadian Government, hold half a dozen patents, am author of several technical papers, and in general enjoy a background in technical work and science indicating at least an average competence to study and report on phenomena of a scientific nature.

I have tried as far as possible to use conventional and standard methods and equipment, and to investigate all possible angles before drawing any conclusions. In other words, I have followed the same general procedures which I would have followed if I had undertaken to study some more prosaic subject, such as radio wave propagation.

The first phase of the work consisted of reading all available literature, collecting as much observational data as possible, and in general getting a fair perspective of the problem. The second phase involved theoretical and laboratory work, finding openings in our technology and in establishing relevant reference points. And the third phase involved following up the many and varied leads which developed from the first two phases.

I do not intend to dwell on the first phase of the work as my experience was exactly parallel with that of other investigators who have provided extensive published reports on their findings. Nor will I dwell on the many dead ends which were explored, which looked promising at first, but faded out under careful investigation. Nor will I be able to be as specific as I would like to be with respect to material given to me in confidence, or which came to me through classified channels. Furthermore, it is not my intention to try to convert anyone to my way of thinking, but merely to state what I believe and why I believe it.

Let us look at a few facts. First, hundreds of normal, honest people have seen lights in the sky which behaved like no light normally seen in the sky ought to behave. Secondly, hundreds of normal, honest people have seen what appeared to be solid, real objects in the sky, which behaved like no object normally seen in the sky ought to behave. Thirdly, hundreds of people have seen objects in the earth's atmosphere at sufficiently close range to see enough detail to enable them to say definitely what the object was *not*, even though they could not identify what it was. Fourthly, descriptions of these objects from observers where circumstances virtually preclude collusion, check quite well among themselves, and against data received from other sources.

It is not reasonable to suppose that hundreds of ordinary, normal people, whose word we would readily accept under more mundane circumstances—for instance, as witness to an automobile accident — should suddenly become liars, fools, neurotics and otherwise quite incompetent observers.

I have interviewed many of these people myself, and I am convinced they are sane, sober, honest folk who are reporting as best they can something which they really did witness. I will concede that maybe some of these people did not do as good a job of observing as someone who is better trained might have done, but within their limits, I believe they did honestly report what they saw.

Let us look at a few more facts. First, there have been several close brushes with these objects, and in one case at least the aircraft pilot lost his life as a consequence. Captain Mantell was reported killed as a result of chasing a flying saucer on January 7, 1947. The incident is described in detail in the *Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* by Edward J. Ruppelt, pp. 51-60 (American edition).

Secondly, people who have been near these objects have described physical sensations which are unusual to say the least, but which are quite con-

sistent with what is known of the technology under which they operate. As nearly as we are able to re-create the accident, Mantell was pursuing a UFO and was able to get quite near—in fact, well into its operating field. His aircraft just fell apart and was scattered over quite an area. Mantell's body, when recovered, was not displayed even to his next of kin. Several people who have found themselves close to these objects have remarked on the insufferable heat which seemed to pervade the general region. Also there seemed to be a gravitational necessity to lean away from the object to maintain balance. While these facts seem rather incredible, nevertheless there exists quite a good record in support of each occurrence. Furthermore, the technology of which we have been able to get a glimpse — namely, that of manipulation of the three basic fields, electric, magnetic and tempic — indicates quite a straightforward answer and explanation of the phenomena.

In Mantell's case, the altered field configuration in the vicinity of the craft reduced the binding forces* within the structure of the aircraft to a value below that of the load which the parts were supposed to carry. So it just came apart. Also, there was probably a substantial reduction in tempic field intensity which would give in effect a rising temperature to the aircraft and contents. I understand that Mantell's body gave every indication of having been subjected to considerable heat. This rise in temperature has been reported as being quite noticeable at distances of several hundred feet of these craft when they are making use of certain combinations of field. Also, since gravity involves a tempic field function, it follows that an alteration in this field could well be reflected in the direction and magnitude of the nearby gravity field.

There have been quite a number of alleged communications with intelligences claiming to be extra-terrestrial. I have followed up each instance to the best of my ability in an effort (a) to establish or disprove the validity of the alleged communication and (b) to obtain any information which might be available if the contact should be authentic.

As might be expected, many of these alleged contacts provided little or nothing of value, but a few did pay off. Some of the contacts have been the subject of published material, but by far the majority are confidential, and there are a surprising number of these contacts. The procedure in checking contacts was to ask a number of innocuous but significant questions and compare the answers with the answer to the same questions obtained through other contacts. The questions were of the type—do people live on the planet Mars?—if so, what is the shape of their houses?—do people on Mars use money?—if so, what does it look like? Altogether, some hundred or more questions were involved.

The results were spectacular, to say the least. Among the contacts that might be classed as authentic, there was almost complete agreement. Among the other alleged contacts there was extremely poor agreement, or none at all. Of course, where agreement was general, but where one or two points didn't fit, an effort was made to find out the reason for the discrepancy. In each case it was found that someone had injected a terrestrial idea or comment instead of transmitting faithfully that which was received.

Now, having located what seemed to be channels of communication between ourselves and those extra-terrestrial intelligences, the next and obvious step was to try and get as much information as possible. As may be expected, this effort was at first directed towards science and technology. But it soon became apparent that there was a very real and quite large gap between this alien science and the science in which I had been trained. Certain crucial experiments were suggested and carried out, and in each case the results confirmed the validity of the alien science. Beyond this, the alien science was just incomprehensible.

There followed a period of soul-searching in which many doubts were raised. While we were able to establish that these people from outside all told the same story, was that story true? It may be agreed that there existed some pretty good evidence to support their statements, but maybe there was some other conventional explanation. If the whole thing was a delusion, then quite a large number of people were suffering from precisely the same delusion. And furthermore —delusions are not externalised —at least, I never heard of such a case. If, on the other hand, it was a hoax, it was by far the most gigantic hoax the world had ever known, and to what end and by whom was it perpetrated?

The inevitable conclusion was that it was all real enough, but that the alien science was definitely alien — and possibly even for ever beyond our comprehension. So another approach was tried—the philosophical—and here the answer was found in all its grandeur.

I will not go into details on the many revisions in ideas and basic thinking beyond stating that the people from outside displayed great patience and understanding in overcoming the prejudices and misinformation I had spent many years in accumulating. I began for the first time in my life to realise the basic one-ness of the Universe and all that is in it—science, philosophy, religion, substance and energy are all facets of the same jewel, and before any one facet can be appreciated, the form of the jewel itself must be perceived.

One of the most important things I had to realise was that we are not alone. The human race in the form of man extends throughout the Universe, and is incredibly ancient. Also, its appearance in physical form is but one of the many manifestations along the path of progress.

* See article "Binding Forces," by Wilbert B. Smith, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, March-April, 1961, issue.

Our civilisation here on earth now is only one of many that have come and gone. This planet has been colonised many times by people from elsewhere, and our present human race are blood-brothers of these people. Is it any wonder that they are interested in us? To orthodox thinkers this may seem strange, but not nearly so strange as our orthodox ideas on evolution. The question might be asked — if these people are our brothers, and are interested in our welfare, why do they remain so aloof? The answer is available. There is a basic law of the Universe which grants each and every individual independence and freedom of choice, so that he may experience and learn from his experiences. No one has the right to interfere in the affairs of others — in fact, our ten commandments are directives against interference. If we disregard this law, we must suffer the consequences, and a little thought will show that our present world state is directly attributable to violation of this principle. When we enter this life, we do so to participate in certain events, the sequence of which was established before our birth, and which if altered substantially would deprive us of experiences necessary to our development. We have built-in protection against altering substantially the sequences in that we do not consciously know of them. But these people from outside have a much greater knowledge than we have, and have means of perceiving sequences which must not be changed. Therefore, while they have every desire in the world to help, and stand by ready, able and willing to do so, they are not permitted by cosmic law to interfere. The dividing line between help and interference is very delicate indeed, and sometimes hard to perceive, but it is a demonstration of individual and collective progress as to how well we can be guided by it. I am told that one of the difficulties is that we do not recognise a sufficient number of dimensions and make use of them in our science. Furthermore, we do not recognise the true nature of dimensions, or of their place in our Universe. I am told that, so far as we are concerned, there are twelve dimensions of deity, and these provide the entire structure of our Universe. Our conventional concepts of dimensions are most inadequate and restrictive, and so long as we persist in them, we can never transcend the world of mechanical processes which we have built.

In science we have an established procedure always to tie a new discovery or observation to that which we already know, even though to do so requires extensive patchwork and perturbation factors to be applied to our existing knowledge to make the new knowledge fit. We invariably assume that the new knowledge must somehow be closely related to the old, and we are most zealous in tying the two together. As a consequence we bend and warp our units of knowledge so that we can fasten them together, whether or not they belong together, until we have fabricated quite a structure which is almost completely closed on itself. Consequently, when we do find knowledge that should, but just won't, fit our structure, we have no alternative but to reject it.

I am informed that the science is really much more simple than we imagine, and all the component parts fit together perfectly without any corrections. Possibly we should start over again and reassemble our knowledge in a different pattern, and this time fit the jigsaw puzzle together properly without trimming the pieces. I feel sure that if we were to do this and accept the philosophy on which this new approach must of necessity be based, we can enjoy the technology and the way of life which is demonstrated to us by the presence of spacecraft and of our brothers from elsewhere.

I would like to say a few words on the philosophy of the saucers. Possibly one of the most interesting aspects of the study of flying saucers, beyond the realisation that they are real and extra-terrestrial, is their philosophy. What manner of creatures build and fly them? What do they look like? How do they think? Are their ideas and ideals similar to ours? Could we understand them?

All these and other questions plague the serious investigator. If we are to rely on sighting data alone, we are bound to get a rather one-sided idea of these creatures. For example, we see saucers travel at terrific speeds, and then suddenly stop or change direction. Under our concepts of physics, no creature of flesh and blood and bone could withstand the terrific forces which would be associated with such actions. Therefore we are likely to assume that the saucerians must be either some manner of robot, or a creature the like of which we have never encountered.

Again, it is hard to understand why any race of creatures having the tremendous power at their disposal which ~~we~~ demonstrated by the saucers should be content to fly rather aimlessly over our globe without doing something more definite. If the tables were reversed, we certainly would! After a very brief reconnaissance we would land and announce to the natives that we were taking over. The fact that the saucerians have made no such move appears to indicate that they must regard us in the same general category as the other flora and fauna native to this planet, and to them our civilisation is so primitive as to be indistinguishable from that of the lower animals and insects. We could go on speculating in this manner for quite a while without coming anywhere near the truth. Fortunately, the people who come to us from elsewhere in flying saucers have seen fit to make contact with people of earth, and to impart as much information and understanding as the contacts were capable of assimilating or passing along to others.

There have been many published instances of contacts between these people from outside and the people of earth, and a

very great many more which have not been published. As is always the case in any new and romantic field, there are those who prevaricate and exaggerate, but it is not too difficult to establish that the vast majority are honest and authentic. For instance, when a dozen or so independent contacts, having no common connection and each alone believing that he or she has been favoured above all others to receive this message, and tell the same message even to names and descriptions which tally perfectly, one has little choice but to believe that they are telling the truth. Furthermore, when the material given to us through the many channels is all assembled and analysed, it adds up to a complete and elegant philosophy which makes our efforts sound like the beating of jungle drums.

These people tell us of a magnificent cosmic plan, of which we are a part, which transcends the lifetime of a single person or nation or civilisation, or even a planet or solar system. We are not merely told that there is something beyond our immediate experience—we are told what it is and our relation therewith. Many of our most vexing problems are solved with a few words—at least, we are told of the solutions if we have the understanding and fortitude to apply them. We are told of the inadequacies of our science, and we have been given the basic grounding for a new science which is at once simpler and yet more embracing than the mathematical monstrosity which we have conjured up. We have been told of a way of life which is Utopian beyond our dreams, and the means of attaining it.

Can it be that such a self-consistent and magnificent philosophy is the figment of imagination of a number of misguided morons? I do not think so. If the only evidence we had was philosophical, we might justifiably suspect it. But when coupled with the reality of observations—thousands of them—we cannot dismiss it so easily. This is especially true when we consider that the science which has been passed to us by these people from elsewhere explains in a manner in which we have been quite unable to do, why the saucers behave as they do, and how it is that they can do things which to us are virtually impossible. The science and the performance check perfectly. Again, we have been told where our scientific ideas are wrong or inadequate, and experiments have been suggested and carried out, and in every case the alien science has been vindicated.

We may ask, if all this is known, why has it not been publicised? Why are not these matters being studied instead of atom bombs? The answer—it has been publicised. Books have been written and hundreds and thousands of copies sold. There are available many periodicals containing this material which may be had for quite a nominal sum. Reports have been prepared by serious investigators and presented through the proper channels, but it is truly said that one can lead a horse to water, but one cannot make him drink!

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

Surrey woman sees saucer

The *Coulsdon and Purley Times* on June 14 printed the following report: "A Whyteleafe woman reported seeing something like a flying saucer in the night sky near her home on Thursday last week.

"Mrs. Phyllis Watters, of John's Walk, says she watched the object—'it looked like a huge lantern hanging in the sky'—for half-an-hour from 11.40 onwards. Then it gradually moved away into the distance, Mrs. Watters told the *Times*. She said she thought there was a similar object, a little smaller or further away, but it was half hidden by trees. 'They looked something like flying saucers to me. I was hoping someone else had seen the objects, because my husband and people I have told all think I am mad; but I am certain they were not aeroplanes or anything of that nature,' she said.

"'There was a plane about, because I could hear it, and I thought it might be keeping observation on the objects.'

"A spokesman at R.A.F. Kenley said: 'We were not carrying out any aerial operations that night and as far as we know no one else has reported seeing anything strange.' Kenley police also said they had received no reports of strange objects in the sky."

Oldham six see saucer

"A group of young Royton people walking home along Rochdale Road, Oldham, recently saw a 'flying saucer.'

"The party saw the oval shape hover silently 150 feet above their heads for 15 minutes then glide over the Oldham and District General Hospital towards nearby playing fields.

"'I know it sounds crazy,' says 21-year-old typist Pat Townsend, of Oldham Road, Royton, 'but six people can't all be wrong.

"'It was a very bright object,' she said. 'Something seemed to be spinning above it. I would have taken it for a plane or helicopter if it had not been for the fact that there was no noise.

"'It went over the hospital near some playing fields, as if it was going to land there.'"

From the *Oldham Chronicle* of June 29.
(Credit to Mr. L. D. White.)

Essex UFO

Mr. H. Cafferata, of Chelmsford, Essex, writes as follows: "On Sunday, June 9, 1963, at 11.10 p.m., two friends of the writer saw from a window of their house in Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex, a luminous object high in the sky, approaching from south-west. The angle of elevation when first observed was about 60°. The object continued in an apparently straight line until its angle of elevation was about 65°, then it gradually changed course to the right (observer's left) by possibly as much as 45° with respect to its previous course. It took then a wide curving path towards the east. It was lost to view, behind trees, at an elevation angle of about 30°. While travelling along this described course it seemed to vary in speed considerably, sometimes appearing to move very slowly and at other times very quickly. When it was somewhere in the middle of this observed course, relatively small lights or luminous objects were seen emerging from it, one after another, about five or six in number. These moved away from their object of origin and were lost to sight and seemed to vanish. The colour of the main and satellite objects was white. No red or green lights were observed, such as might be seen on conventional aircraft, i.e. navigation lights. The sky was cloudless everywhere along the route, but the intensity of the light fluctuated irregularly during the object's movement across the sky. The apparent size was about 2nd astronomical magnitude, whilst that of the emerging satellite luminous objects was about 6th magnitude. There was no sound coming from the object that could be heard by the observers. It was impossible to estimate the height of the object, but it certainly seemed to be very high above the earth, at least several miles up. The time taken to traverse from 60° elevation south-west to 30° elevation east was about 10 to 15 minutes.

"The two witnesses are Mr. and Mrs. Alan Woods, of 'Long Orchards,' Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex.

"On the next evening I went to discuss what they had seen and at 10.10 p.m. I myself saw a similar phenomenon. This time a luminous object about 2nd magnitude was suddenly noticed high in the sky, approaching from a south-west direction, at an elevation angle of about 70°. There were no navigation lights, it was quite inaudible, and took a somewhat curved course, somewhat like a long letter 'S,' only reversed as 'Ƨ.' Its speed was fairly regular and there were no emerging lights seen as on the night before. It was lost to view behind trees at about 30° elevation angle to the east. The light intensity varied somewhat during the flight but the sky was cloudless. This was witnessed by Mr. and Mrs. A. Woods, Mrs. B.

Lloyd and two other persons present. The observed transit time was about five to seven minutes."

Newcastle upon Tyne flying tyre

The following account appeared in the Newcastle upon Tyne *Journal*, issue of April 9: "A large tyre-shaped object was reported to have been seen moving across the sky between Rothbury and Whittingham yesterday. Mr. Peter Finlay, a 36-year-old engineer, of Farndale Avenue, Stakeford, was driving his van when he saw the object through his windscreen.

"'I stopped the van at once, thinking it was a trick of the windscreen,' he said last night. 'Then I saw that it was moving across the sky, somewhere between 400 and 800 feet up.

"'I reckon it was about two or three miles away. It was black and looked just like a wagon tyre,' he said.

"'I was really sweating by this time,' said Mr. Finlay. 'I am usually sceptical of these things but this really frightened me. It moved off in a north-westerly direction. There was a bright orange flash as it went off at a tangent. It moved off very fast and left a trail.'

"Mr. Finlay said that two or three minutes later a jet plane passed over. Mr. Finlay rang the R.A.F. at Boulmer to tell them of his experience and to ask them if they had seen anything. Last night the duty officer at the station said: 'I am afraid I cannot comment on this matter.'"

Manchester boy sees spinning UFO

The *Manchester Evening News* on June 19 reported that a ten-year-old schoolboy, Andrew McNeill, called his mother into the back yard of his home in Halliday Street, Newton Heath, Manchester, to admire a rainbow. It was then that he saw the UFO. In Andrew's own words: "It was oval-shaped and spinning round. There was a white light on it, and it passed overhead towards Clayton." The object made no sound and Andrew said it seemed about as big as an aeroplane.

One of the remarkable features of this sighting is that the science reporter telephoned the Editor of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for an opinion. In the past, anybody else's views have been preferred, either the Air Ministry's or that of alleged experts such as the Astronomer Royal, Professor Bernard Lovell or Professor Kopal of Manchester University, all of whom claim to have studied the non-existence of flying saucers. The newspaper report, therefore, which quoted the Editor's opinion, confirms that scepticism is beginning to fade and the subject, at long last, is being allowed a fair hearing in the Press.

Bebington sighting

The *Liverpool Echo* on May 22 reported the following sighting by Bebington cadets: "Nine members of the Bebington 1123 Air Training Corps Squadron last night saw an unidentifiable flying object from their headquarters in Cross Lane, Bebington. They kept it under observation for about five seconds.

"Cadet Warrant Officer Jeffrey Green, aged 20, of 10 Ferns Road, Brackenwood Estate, Bebington, said today that the object was in the shape of a sphere which had been sliced in two. It was brilliant gold in colour.

"'I should imagine it was at an altitude of about 50,000 feet, possibly more. It seemed to hover and then it disappeared very quickly—too fast for it to be a jet aircraft. As it went from sight it seemed to be climbing in a westerly direction,' said Warrant Officer Green.

"'The object was unlike anything I have seen in aircraft recognition classes,' added Mr. Green, who is employed in the Nuclear Physics Research Laboratory at Liverpool University and has been a member of the A.T.C. squadron for five years.

"He added that as soon as he had seen the object he had called eight other cadets to witness it. 'We saw it hovering for about three seconds and then climbing for another two seconds or so,' he said.

"Bromborough police said they had received no reports of any unidentifiable flying objects in the vicinity last night. The cadets saw the object at about 9.15 p.m. (Credit to Mr. J. E. Doyle.)

Southampton crater

The *Southern Evening Echo* on July 16 reported: "As people waited at bus shelters a few yards away, an Army bomb disposal squad today stepped up a bomb hunt in a roped-off park in the centre of Southampton. After several small trial borings in the park—in Pound Tree Road—this morning, a detector showed some buried metal. Said an Army expert: 'It might be anything.' If it was a German unexploded bomb it was no bigger than a 100-pounder. It could be a shell or a fire bomb.

"The hunt began yesterday after a mowing machine had been over the park. A hole, which had apparently been covered by a thin crust of earth suddenly appeared. The hole was discovered by a parks' employee, Mr. William George Wellman, of 35 St. James House, Southampton. He said: 'We pushed in a shovel and it went in four feet.'

"If a bomb is confirmed it could pose a big problem for the Corporation Transport Department and traffic control. An Army spokesman said if a bomb was found, the area would have to be cleared as work progressed. This could interfere with bus stops at the town's busiest peak hour queuing point."

The solution to the mystery? "A meteorite . . . that's almost certainly the answer." (*Southern Evening Echo, July* 17.) Or is it? See article on the Wiltshire Crater in this issue.

Flamborough Head crater

The *Hull Daily Mail* carried this story in its July 20 issue: "Cutting hay on his father's farm at Flamborough Head, Colin Hood (22) came across a 10-foot wide shallow hole which was not there the last time the land was worked. The sudden appearance of the hole has been reported to the police and coastguards, and a bomb disposal squad has been asked to investigate.

"Mr. F. R. Hood, of North Moor Farm, who is chairman of Bridlington N.F.U., said the hole was not there when the land was top-dressed in the spring.

"'It must have come since the grass grew," he said. He was unable to account for it.

"The hole has jagged edges and is surrounded by cracks. Earth has been scattered for some distance round it."

Giant crater in Westmorland

The *Yorkshire Post* on August 1 added to the toll of crater stories:

"Giant craters which have appeared on the slopes of Dufton Fell, Westmorland, are mystifying local shepherds. The craters were discovered by two farmers, one of whom wonders whether they have anything to do with his loss of 40 sheep.

"The farmers, Mr. Bill Richardson, of Ghyll House, Dufton, and Mr. John Rudd, of Dufton Hall, were on the far side of the fell looking over their sheep when some disance away they saw the ground had been torn up. As they got nearer they saw two massive craters, the bigger of them measuring about 60 yards across and being about two feet deep.

"Mr. Rudd said: 'Round the edges of the crater the fell seemed to have been pushed up. All the soil appeared to have been washed away down this channel.'

There are many theories as to the cause of the craters. Some locals blame a recent thunderstorm; others recall a similar happening on the fell tops mystifying their parents over half a century ago."

Cadet sees saucer

The *Gloucestershire Echo* of July 23 carries this story:

"An unidentified flying object was seen by an ex-R.A.F. cadet at Hinton-on-the-Green last night. He was driving along the main Evesham - Cheltenham road at about 10.45 p.m. when his attention was attracted by lights in the sky.

"He stopped and got out of his car and saw the object at a height of about 1,800 to 2,000 feet. It was, he said, shaped like an inverted dessert dish, with three tiers of lights in yellow, orange, and red round the outside.

"The object crossed the main road at a speed of 100 m.p.h., travelling north-west. It was completely silent. There have been other reports of the object being seen."

Wolverhampton mystery

The July-August "wave" over Britain included well-attested accounts of a mysterious visitation over the Wolverhampton area. The story was told in three issues of the *Wolverhampton Express and Star*:

July 26: "Police officers went out 'star-gazing' last night to investigate reports that a flying saucer had been seen circling over Walsall. Telephone messages were received from two parts of the town that a strange round object, which changed colour from red to blue-white, had been sighted high in the sky. The first report came at 11.30 p.m. from Mr. E. E. Dunn, of Stephenson Avenue, Bloxwich, and Mr. M. G. Cope, Priestley Road, Bloxwich. A Bloxwich police constable who went to see them in Stephenson Square was told that while they were chatting together they looked into the sky towards Willenhall and saw 'a big, beaming red light flashing on and off.'

"While they were watching it remained stationary two or three times for 20 to 30 seconds. At 11.40 p.m. a similar report was received at Walsall police headquarters from Mr. R. Martin, of Rowan Road, who had seen an unidentified object in the sky circling the Bescot area."

"A senior police officer told the *Express and Star* today: 'After receiving these reports we got in touch with air control at Preston. They pointed out that Walsall is on a main air lane, and the light seen could have been shown by a civil aircraft.'"

July 30: "The mystery of the strange object with a red flashing light seen in the sky last Thursday night is widening. A Wolverhampton schoolboy and a Tipton man, have both reported their observations. Mr. K. C. Martin, of 3 Toll End Road, Tipton, says that he first observed the 'flashing red light' in Stone Cross. 'It seemed to be directly over the Patent Shaft Works.'

"As he watched it the object moved very slowly in one direction and then came back to the same position again. He thought it stayed absolutely still for a while, then moved on again for a distance, then stopped still again. He doubted the view that it might have been a civil aircraft, as he said it only carried one light and aircraft did not stay dead still in mid-air. Finally the object moved on again and disappeared behind a row of houses.

"Mr. Martin said: 'Although I saw this thing for a good length of time I never saw the shape behind the red light.' Fourteen-year-old Nigel Neale, an amateur astronomer, of 6 Ruskin Avenue, Lanesfield, Wolverhampton, said when he first saw the object last Thursday evening it was in the sky over Walsall and Wolverhampton. He first saw it at 11.35 p.m. and observed it with a one inch telescope for about 30 minutes when it disappeared. Nigel went on: 'The object was winking once every three seconds and appeared a brilliant red. Under observation with the telescope the object was found to consist of four lights. He said the object did not appear to be an aircraft because of its 'phenomenal speed and twisted path.'"

August 1: "Another *Express and Star* reader has reported seeing the mystery object with a red flashing light seen in the sky over

the Wolverhampton area last Thursday night. She is Mrs. G. Fradgley, of 48 Wallows Road, Brockmoor, Brierley Hill, who said today she noticed the object from her bedroom window. 'It was circling round the Wolverhampton area when I first saw it,' she said. 'I could not hear it and it did not appear to have any definite shape—it was just a big red light. It circled round for some time and it came towards our house and passed over after about ten minutes. The time was about 11.30—the same time the other people said in the *Express and Star*. I could not hear any sound and I don't think it was an aircraft, although at first I did think it could have been a plane on fire.'

" Like other readers who have reported seeing the object, Mrs. Fradgley said the red light did not stay on all the time, but blinked on and off. It disappeared in the Quarry Bank direction."

Flamborough Head - another mystery

A shining object in the sky had holidaymakers mystified for hours at Flamborough Head yesterday.

Coastguards described the object as balloon shaped and almost transparent. They said it was moving against the wind.

From the *People*, Sunday, June 28. Credit to Mr. V. Wade.

Southend UFO

From the *Southend Standard*, August 1: " A mystery object over Southend early Wednesday evening set the telephones ringing in Standard House. People as far apart as Thorpe Bay and Westcliff reported a triangular object travelling slowly to the north-west.

" One of those who saw it was Mr. S. Acres, of Park Road, Southend. 'I would say it definitely isn't an aircraft—it looks like a kite,' he told us.

" Mr. S. F. Jupp, of Clieveden Road, Thorpe Bay, was so mystified that he called in Southend Police and pointed out the object to a patrol car crew.

" The Police tried the Airport. Their verdict? Probably a meteorological balloon from Shoebury."

Our verdict? Probably not.

Malvern mystery object

The *Worcester Evening News* on July 27 reported:

" A ' brilliant white ball which turned orange before it moved off' has been seen over Malvern twice in one night. Mr. Donald Lloyd, a representative, and his wife, who live at 96 St. Andrew's Road, Malvern, had just retired for the night. The bedroom curtains were drawn but suddenly the room was lit by a brilliant white light shining through the curtains. Mr. Lloyd says the source of the light was a large ball-shaped object in the Old Hills, Callow End, direction. It moved towards Malvern in an arc, disappearing in a south-easterly direction. All the time a pulsating brilliant light was being emitted. Just before the object disappeared, the light turned orange.

" Mr. Lloyd says he saw the object again three-quarters of an hour later. It came from the Old Hills direction again but this time turned northwards. In both instances the light did not disappear instantly, but gradually diminished as though the object was climbing at speed at an angle of about 45 degrees. 'I have never seen anything go that fast,' says Mr. Lloyd. 'After it disappeared for a few seconds there was the noise as of powerful jets.' he added."

Hooded men

Events in England are beginning to resemble the pattern in France in 1954 which led to the discovery of orthoteny although the incidents that revealed the pattern appeared at the time to be almost incredible. This story is taken from the front page of the *Caterham Times*, August 2:

" Hooded men were seen on Sunday morning (July 28) at Wapses Lodge, Caterham. A group of eight men wearing thick black cowls caused alarm and astonishment to passing motorists.

" One motorist told our reporter: ' The hooded figures gave me a great shock. I thought I had stumbled on the Ku Klux Klan.' Reports indicate that the mystery men departed 'running and leaping across the road to the dual carriageway.' But all their actions were 'silent and most odd.'

Efforts to trace the mystery men have been so far unsuccessful."

London and Home Counties

The English " wave " of sightings continues unabated. The *Daily Sketch* on August 2 reported:

" For the second night in succession, scores of people telephoned the Air Ministry and the B.B.C. to report a mysterious triangular-shaped object in the sky over London and the Home Counties.

The B.B.C. had over 100 calls about it, and the Air Ministry had " a considerable number."

Callers to the Ministry were mainly from Hertfordshire. A spokesman said they could give no explanation.

One man described it as close to the North Star and ' brighter than the brightest planet.' "

On the same day *The Times*, referring to similar incidents which took place on August 1 quoted the Air Ministry as saying that weather ballons released " on the Continent " might have caused the sightings. The Air Ministry is beginning to realise that it must make its statements vaguer and vaguer in view of the fact that investigators are becoming shrewder and more persistent.

Another Bristol sighting

The *Bristol Evening Post* on July 29 reported:

" There was a flying saucer over Providence Lane last night. . . . At least, according to John White and Howard Williams there was. They rang the *Evening Post* to report a mysterious flying object spotted at 8.35 p.m.

over Providence Lane, Long Ashton. 'It was oval in shape, green in colour, and flying at about 100 feet,' reported bricklayer John White (19), who lives at 19 Providence Lane.

" 'It had an aerial and made a whistling noise, like tuning a radio,' said builder's labourer Howard Williams (18), who lives next door at No. 21. Both said IT came from the direction of Weston-super-Mare, flew at about 100 feet over the top end of the lane, near Long Ashton golf course, and rapidly climbed out of sight after about two minutes.

" 'I have never seen anything like it before, but there was no sign of little green men or anything like that. There were no windows in the machine,' reported Howard. But a check with Long Ashton police, local flying clubs and R.A.F. stations, and Filton Met. Office failed to draw any other reports to help solve the mystery."

(Credit to Mr. Arthur E. Hedges.)

Two boys see saucer

The *Yorkshire Post* gave the following account a prominent place in its July 25 issue and accompanied it with a photograph of the two boys concerned:

"A group of schoolboys claim to have sighted a flying saucer over Leeds yesterday. They saw it hovering over Roundhay Park woods at 8.45 a.m. as they were on their way to school, they said. For a moment they lost sight of the object behind some trees. When it reappeared it flew off at high speed and vanished.

"The boys had just reached the top of Kentmere Approach, Seacroft, where they all live, when Michael Lee, ten, first saw it. He shouted to his friends and they all saw the silver-grey object over a hollow in the woods, about a mile away. Another boy, John Duffy, ten, said that the object was circular and had a cockpit on the top. 'It flew away too fast to be an aeroplane and it made a buzzing sound,' he said.

"All the boys felt too afraid to tell their schoolteachers, but John told his uncle, Mr. Donald Foy, when he returned home. Mr. Foy said the description fitted that of two objects he saw over Leeds six years ago, which he had never mentioned to his nephew before. Leeds police did not receive any 'flying saucer' reports yesterday. Spokesmen at Church Fenton, Linton-on-Ouse and Dishforth R.A.F. stations could not say whether any aircraft were in the Leeds area at 8.45 a.m."

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh sighting

The *Scottish Dail Mail* on July 27 published the following account:

"A day after a strange crater was discovered in the Lammermuirs six people say they saw a flying saucer high in the sky above Edinburgh. Doctor's wife Ruth Scott, of The Thicket, Roslin, Midlothian, was in her garden on Thursday with her 10-year-old son Simon and a 28-year-old Kenyan university student, Ben Oddotte. Simon spotted something in the sky, then his mother and Mr. Oddotte saw it and kept it under observation 'for about ten minutes.'

"At about the same time, outside his home in Dockhart Drive, Clermiston, Edinburgh, 14-year-old James Potts saw the object. His sister Sheila, 15, and their 35-year-old mother, Elizabeth, also watched it. Both parties gave almost identical descriptions.

"Said Mrs. Scott: 'It was flying very high, travelling south. I could clearly see it was not an aircraft. It was like two saucers, one on top of the other, and it had a hump on top. It was dark underneath and had a greyish-white top. It made no sound at all and there was no exhaust. It seemed to gyrate.' "

(Credit to Miss Sheila Walker.)

Three more craters

The B.B.C. Scottish News, 6.15 p.m., July 27, reported:

"Three more mystery craters. A bomb disposal squad have been having a look at them in a field near Sanquhar, in Dumfriesshire. No trace of metal or explosives has been found. The craters are similar to those found on a hillside in East Lothian; scientists were having a look at them today."

(Credit to W. J. Maclean who recorded this item on tape.)

SOUTH AFRICA

The saucer at Richard's Bay

We are indebted to Mr. Philipp J. Human for having interviewed Mr. Fred White and for sending us the following signed and witnessed account.

"About two years ago I was fishing at Paterson's Groyne, North Beach, Durban, together with my friend Henry a'Dank. The time was 3 a.m. All of a sudden we heard a peculiar whine, and looking up saw a bright light coming from the east. As it approached us I noticed that it was a circular-shaped object and was slightly tilted towards us. It must have been at least 100 feet in diameter, and on top a distinct dome could be seen. The lower part seemed to be lit up with a greenish glow. It hovered over the sea quite close to us for fully ten minutes and then levelled itself and moved off northwards following the beach for about half a mile to the Dock area, where it circled a few times before ascending rapidly in a steep climb and disappearing down the coast.

"This fantastic experience aroused my interest, and I began to study magazine articles and made it my business to gain what knowledge I could about flying saucers.

"During the last Easter weekend, a friend and I motored to Richard's Bay, some 150 miles north of Durban, to do some fishing — my favourite pastime. On the Saturday night (April 13) at about 10.30 I was fishing alone as my friend was asleep in the car which was parked under some trees about 500 yards away.

"Once again I heard a high-pitched whine which seemed to come from the east. Then I spotted a very bright light, the apparent size of the moon, travel-

ling from east to south over the sea at a height of about 200 feet. The hum increased as it approached the spot where I was standing. It was then only 100 feet above me. I became alarmed and backed away as it started descending, but my only escape was to climb a steep embankment. This I did with all possible speed. The object was then only 50 feet from me, and as it prepared to land I noticed that the sand was being scattered in all directions by a strong downdraught. It was an enormous craft, undoubtedly metallic, and at least 100 feet in diameter. It glowed with a greenish light and looked for all the world like two inverted soup plates. I became paralysed with fear but could run no farther as my knees seemed to give way.

"Of one thing I am absolutely sure: If it wasn't the same craft I had seen just two years previously, it was one identical to that in all respects.

"I became aware of the fact that the air around me had become strangely warm, but it soon disappeared, and the whining stopped abruptly as the craft nestled firmly on the beach.

"I noticed several oval-shaped portholes deeply recessed at regular intervals around the dome. From my vantage point I found I could see right inside the ship. Then I noticed what seemed to be a circular control panel running along the outer wall. The floor seemed to be covered with a carpet of foam rubber strips.

"Everything inside was brilliantly illuminated, but I could not see the source of its lighting. It was then that I noticed a man had appeared at the porthole nearest to me, and he seemed to be looking directly at me. He had a fair complexion with what seemed to be a smooth skin. In all, he had the same features as us. On his head he wore what appeared to be a shining metallic crash helmet. I could only see him from the waist upwards, but he seemed very muscular and wore a sky-blue one-piece overall with no visible buttons, fasteners or seams — as if it had been moulded to his body. He also wore gloves made of a shiny mesh. He never moved, but just seemed to stare at me. I did not see anybody else, although I had a strong presentiment that several others were aboard. I wondered why no one made any attempt to alight from this handsome craft, and why it should have singled me out to land virtually right in my lap.

"After a full six minutes I heard the peculiar hum again, which increased to a slight whine as the craft lifted bodily from the beach—again scattering the sand in all directions. Once more I felt the warm air as it rose vertically, at first very slowly, but as it gained altitude it increased in speed. As it reached a height of about 200 feet it hovered momentarily and then moved out to sea in the direction from whence it came. Finally, it disappeared at fantastic speed.

"After waking my friend and explaining what had happened, we tried to tune in on the car's radio, but could get no response on account of what seemed to be atmospheric noises blocking the station. The following day the wireless was perfect.

"I would like to add that I have never seen any real flying saucer photographs in the magazines I have read, but only artists' impressions of these craft. These do not in the least resemble the craft I had seen on the two occasions."

Northern Natal sighting

Mr. Phillip J. Human has also sent us a copy of the *Durban Daily News* of June 18. It tells the story recounted by a Durban woman whose name, however, is known to our correspondent who has respected her wish to remain anonymous. The woman was on holiday and with two other adults was travelling to a village about 20 miles away from where she was staying to attend a cinema. The account continues: "They were miles from anywhere with not a farmhouse or a kraal in sight when they saw a light coming round a hill towards them. 'We stopped the car and watched as it came closer and closer to us,' she writes.

"At 200 to 300 yards distance and at a height of 300 feet it stopped, and in the glow of its own light they saw the outline of its circular shape and dome. It stayed in the same place for about ten minutes and then moved away until it was lost to view behind the hill. Although it remained off the ground and stationary in the air there was no sound but they all felt a peculiar sensation of being charged with electricity and even semi-paralysed. 'I know this sounds like space fiction,' she writes, 'but I assure you it is absolutely true.'

"The cinema, she says, 'was dreary after that experience' and the next day they kept on reliving the whole episode. But although there were 40 people staying at the same country hotel they did not tell anyone of their experience. 'None of us wanted to be laughed at,' she adds, 'not even behind our backs.'

"This correspondent, who has asked me to preserve her annonymity, says she delayed in writing me for three reasons. The first is that she views all letter writing as an abominable chore and laziness is her middle name. The second is that people are now becoming chary of telling even members of their own families or their best friends about anything unusual they have seen in the sky, and the third reason is that as a serious-minded person she has no desire to be grouped with the sensation seekers or the emotional.

"'I always believe in having an open mind about all phenomena,' she writes, 'as I feel that just because a logical, scientific explanation is not available it doesn't mean that an answer is not around the corner.'"

U.S.A.

Mystery blaze at Belfast, Maine

We are indebted to Mr. Welton P. Farrow for sending in the following accounts. The first appeared in the Waterville *Morn-*

ing Sentinel of May 11: " Something from the sky—it may have fallen from a passing plane—set a waterfront warehouse afire Friday.

" Whatever it was hit the Maplewood Poultry Co. building and exploded. The noise was audible for several blocks. Firefighters doused the flames with minor damage. But they could find no trace of the mysterious source of the blast.

" Foreman Rene Gagne said he saw a 'round, blue object,' streaking from the sky, hit the building about 20 feet from the ground. He said it seemed to turn green when it exploded. State Fire Inspector William Phillips agreed the fire seemed to have started from something that fell from the sky.

" Police Chief Oscar Horne said a two-engine aircraft had been seen in the area. He theorised something might have fallen from it. Brunswick Naval Air Station told Belfast officials one of their planes could have been in the area at the time, but it wasn't certain.

" Lloyd Drinkwater, Waldo County civil defence director, reported radioactivity in the debris at the fire scene. There's always a certain amount in the air, Drinkwater said, and the significance of his findings couldn't be determined until he knew the day's apr count for this area. He noted, however, that the count was higher around the debris than 100 feet away."

The second account, which amplifies the former, was contained in a broadcast by the Kennebec Broadcasting Company, also on May 11: " Belfast, Maine.—Authorities are at a loss today to explain the fiery object that streaked out of the sky yesterday and exploded against the side of a Belfast warehouse, touching off a small fire. Police Chief Oscar B. Horne said a team of State and local investigators could find no trace of the object at the Maplewood Poultry building on Front Street. The fire burned through shingles on the side of the three-storey building. Though a number of persons reported hearing a loud explosion—there was only one witness. Rene Gagne, a mechanic for the company, said a 'ball of fire about 15 feet long' streaked out of the sky and hit the building about 12 feet above the ground, exploded and touched off the fire. Waldo County Civil Defence Director said a geiger counter showed some radiation was present but not enough to indicate the area was contaminated by a meteor. Maine Aeronautics Commission Inspector, John B. Nichols, of Augusta, questioned local rocketry groups but none of the members knew of any firings yesterday. Also at the scene was State Fire Inspector William Phillips. Horne said Phillips found no evidence of arson. An aircraft reported in the area at the time was traced to Brunswick Naval Air Station, but officials there said the twin-engine plane carried nothing that could ignite a fire if dropped. Horne said there were no plans for any further investigation today because of the lack of clues."

HONG KONG

Over the Peak

From the *South China Sunday Post* of June 2: " An unusual and so far inexplicable phenomenon was observed by residents on the Peak shortly after midnight yesterday. While seated on the verandah of a house in Peak Road they saw a bright object, green, red and yellow in colour, shooting across the sky. It illuminated the whole harbour.

" It passed from east to west at a considerable height, and approaching the west seemed to break into two pieces, one continuing on the previous course, the other falling away at a slower speed, eventually disappearing from sight.

" The phenomenon, which was also observed by residents on Mount Cameron, was not seen by the Royal Observatory."

TASMANIA

Mystery object returns

The *Launceston Examiner*, of Tasmania, reported in its April 19 issue: " A strange revolving object with flashing brilliant red and green lights, was watched through binoculars for more than an hour last night in the Lower Midlands.

" Mr. and Mrs. D. T. J. Wiggins, who manage the post office at Woodsdale, and four members of their family watched the object through binoculars at intervals until it disappeared.

" Mrs. Wiggins said it appeared low on the north-eastern horizon and, to the naked eye, resembled a bright star. However, through binoculars it appeared to be revolving and was flashing brilliant red and green lights. It was rising and falling sharply, and moving from right to left.

" After hovering in almost the same position, the object appeared to move on a settled course and began to rise as it travelled out of sight in a northerly direction."

The following day, April 20, the *Launceston Examiner* had further news: " A strange object in the eastern sky reported on Thursday night, was sighted again last night by several families in the area.

" Mrs. D. J. Wiggins, who helps to manage the post office at Woodsdale, said she sighted the object about 7 p.m. yesterday, high in the eastern sky.

" It was very much higher in the sky than on Thursday night and binoculars had to be used to get a clear view of it. The object was still behaving in an erratic manner, rising and falling and moving sideways and in circles. It was still flashing very brilliant colours of red and green as it moved high into space," she said.

" The object appeared to be rising steadily all the time it was visible last night.

" It was almost invisible by 10.30 p.m.

" Mrs. Wiggins said that the object mystified a number of people who sighted it."

continued on page 27

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Russia's radar probe of Mars

Sir,—You may be interested to know that the *Soviet News* on June 12 reported the result of a radar probe of Mars in February of this year. Mars was then in opposition and was at a distance of 62 million miles. The report read as follows: " 1. The observations point to the existence on the planet of large and very smooth areas of several square kilometres, in which the irregularities do not exceed four to six inches. 2. The zone of Mars studied by Soviet scientists lay in the planet's northern hemisphere in the lighter desert parts of the surface during the summer season. The temperature of the soil in that region might have been above zero Centigrade."—W. Firminger, 10b Canterbury Road, Ashford, Kent.

Global Orthoteny

Sir, — Most readers must be impressed by Aimé Michel's discovery of Orthoteny and the subsequent extension to its global possibilities, as presented in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, May-June, 1963, issue. British readers must have been extremely interested in the mention of a possible alignment from Southend to Barra Sound, and, like myself, must have taken out map and straight-edge to draw the line.

It is exciting to find the line passes over the Lake District (Stephen Darbishire) and near Sheffield (Alex Birch). However, I found that if the Rovigo-Southend line (page 181, *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery*) is extended it passes across the country towards Chester rather than Barra Sound.

Quite independently a colleague of mine arrived at the same conclusion. Wondering if the discrepancy was due to the difference in projections of the maps used I checked the result on a gnomonic chart, on which great circle tracks may be drawn as straight lines, and this confirmed the Chester line.

I wonder if other readers have obtained the same result, and how M. Michel decided upon the Barra Sound Line.

Incidentally, gnomonic projection confirms M. Michel's findings that the Bayonne-Vichy line runs around the world, passing over Brazil and New Guinea.—David C. Jones, 12 Beeches Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Glos.

Sir,—I wish to thank you for the continued quality of the articles appearing in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

Aimé Michel and his friends certainly have discovered something in Global Orthoteny. It is interesting that the Southend-Barra Sound great circle is at an exact right-angle to that of Bayonne-Vichy. According to my rather limited globe I can find three famous sightings on the Southend - Barra Sound great circle. The first report ever of flying saucers, by Kenneth Arnold over Mount Rainier; the big cigar over Mount Kilimanjaro; and Stephen Darbyshire's Coniston saucer. They didn't occur on the same day, of course, but are nevertheless interesting. Perhaps these could be checked exactly.

Evidently Prince Philip believes in flying saucers. I refer you to an article in *McCalls*, June 22, 1962. It is called " How Queen Elizabeth II entertains her friends." I quote:

" He (Prince Philip) talks animatedly of new inventions, argues farming techniques with Porchester, yarns about sport—hunting, polo, yachting, cricket, — discusses sputniks, atom bombs, space travel.

" The subject of flying saucers came up at one dinner party. 'I'm sure they exist,' Philip insisted. 'All the evidence points to it. So many people say they have seen them. You should read the book *Flying Saucers Have Landed*.' "

—Adrian Mills, 42 Lexham Gardens, London, W.8.

Sir,—After having read Aimé Michel's article on global orthoteny in the May-June issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, I felt that there are several questions which might, when answered, lead to further important discoveries.

In normal practice where surveys of gravimetric and magnetic grids are being worked over a given area, it is usual to decide on the distance between each " station." Quite a usual practice is to make a " station " every half mile. This, of course, is plotted by the normal use of Transit and Stadlar Rods (Civil Engineering Survey). The gravimetric reading is then taken at each of these stations and magnetic readings probably at each alternate station. But the whole of the survey is linked with Bench Marks which are positioned by night shots of stars and against a compass bearing on magnetic north. All our navigation, survey and anything else in this connection is con-

trolled by these accepted laws or rules of modern science.

Do the lines equivalent to our longitudinal lines, if extended, bear on the true north or on the magnetic north? In other words, where do they get their bearing from? The whole question rests on the definition of extensions and with what these lines are co-ordinated. It is very easy to place a series of dots and couple them up to form a grid pattern but they lack full significance until some factor is brought in which is a control or focal point. Any line drawn on a map must have a compass bearing.

Supposing we were to reach Mars, we would arrive there only with our existing instruments and these would be controlled by the Earth's magnetic north. The important question then would be: (a) Would they function on Mars? (b) Has Mars a magnetic point of its own? (c) Is there a universal focal point of which we are not aware and which is being used by other planets?

In order to develop this discovery there must be found some basic "anchor." If on the other hand these lines are navigational sound or magnetic lines guiding outer space vehicles and bringing them back safely to their home base it indicates the existence of a focal point somewhere in what we term infinity.

It could be that the whole of the Universe is centred around this point and if on each planet a magnetic north could be found, then by coupling all of these up we could discover the "true point" about which the whole universe orbits. We have learnt that the Earth orbits around the Sun, but do we know that the Sun does not, itself, orbit around some other point? The movement might be so small in measured distance that we have been unable to detect it. How vast is the universe and to what astronomical distance does outer space extend?

I am convinced that if the discovery of the straight lines is pursued it will prove or disprove all present accepted facts in relation to gravity, magnetic attraction and many other theories on which we have based so much of our present-day knowledge. — Frank Burr, c/o FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, 1 Doughty Street, W.C.1.

Lenticular clouds

Sir. — What is a lenticular cloud? I have heard some strange names for Unidentified Flying Objects in my time, but this one beats them all!

I do not pretend to know much about meteorology, but have the advantage over Mr. L. J. Moulster, of Dunstable, in that I have seen the colour print of the photograph published with David Rudman's article in your May-June, 1963, issue. It is far more impressive than the black and white reproduction which appears in the REVIEW.

I cannot say whether or not Mr. Moulster has read Aimé Michel's book *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*. If he has, does he not recall the UFOs', "lenticular clouds," or what-have-you, which are described in the opening chapter.

I recapitulate the details:

The first example was witnessed at 1 a.m. on the night of August 22/23, 1954, by a businessman just returned to his home at Vernon, which is on the Seine, N.W. of Paris. His story, which he reported next day to the police, was corroborated by the report of two gendarmes who had been on their beat on the other bank of the river.

In this case the "lenticular cloud," or gigantic cigar-shaped UFO, stood vertically on end, glowing with several times the luminosity of the moon. It discharged five disc-shaped objects from its lower end in rapid succession, and these, after manœuvring, shot off at speed. The UFO, or glowing cloud, after being observed for some forty-five minutes, faded and disappeared.

Another "cloud"—which was just how several witnesses described it—was seen in daylight near St. Pronant, in the Vendée, on September 14, 1954. This particular "lenticular cloud" approached in a horizontal position like that in your photograph, descended, and switched slowly to a vertical position, with a display of changing lights and vapour moving about its surface. Hanging stationary for some minutes while other clouds scudded by, it finally discharged a disc from its lower end before disappearing.

This operation was witnessed by several people over a sizeable area, and a number of them made independent and identical reports.

The evidence which Mr. Moulster quotes in the final paragraph of his letter points to the fact that "lenticular clouds" are indeed lethal when approached by man's clumsier machines. This is also a feature of fatal encounters reported in other cases (e.g., Mantell), where the witnesses evolved no fancy names for the object concerned, but merely referred to it as a light, an unidentified object, or a flying saucer.

I myself prefer the less sophisticated name of "UFO" for these objects, and "flying saucer" for the discs which they appear to propagate!—C. A. Bowen, 28 Blackmore Crescent, Woking, Surrey.

Correction

Sir,—We note that on page 23 of the May-June issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Melbourne is shown as being in New Zealand.

We wish to advise you that Melbourne is in Victoria, Australia. Mr. Charles Brew's excellent sighting of a UFO took place on his dairy farm at Willow Grove, which is a small settlement in the Gippsland district.

Would you be so good as to publish in the next issue a correction about the locality?—(Mrs.) Sylvia Sutton, Hon. Sec., Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society, P.O. Box 32, Toorak, Victoria, Australia.

(We tender our apologies to Australia. The error in classification occurred because the account was taken from a New Zealand newspaper and not an Australian.—Editor.)

Percentages

Sir,—The letter of the Hon. Brinsley Le Poer Trench in the July-August issue draws your readers' attention to a situation where Major Keyhoe is manifestly out of his depth. No one who was accustomed to seeing percentages set out in tables of statistics would have fallen into the error that Keyhoe does in his book *Flying Saucers: Top Secret*.

The fallacy arises because Keyhoe does not appreciate the fact that it is rarely possible to work out a simple, exact percentage value. If a total is an integral multiple of 100 this is quite easy, but with a total of 778, which only has the factors 1, 2, 389 and 778 the only simple exact percentages obtainable are 50 and 100—from the numbers 389 and 778. Any other numbers expressed as percentages of 778 will give rise to long, recurring decimals. Let us suppose, as seems likely, that the figure of 2.2 per cent given refers to an actual numerical value of 17 sightings. If we express 17 as a percentage of 778, we obtain the value 2.1850899743, correct to the 10th decimal place. For a total of 778, as large a number of decimal places as this would not be justified. Accordingly, the U.S. Air Force Release corrects the percentage figures to the first decimal place, thus giving in this instance the value 2.2. This would be conventional practice.

The point that needs to be emphasised is that unless the percentage value were to be given in full, i.e. to the end of the term of the recurring decimal (which may involve 389 or 778 figures in this case) it is not possible to obtain 17 exactly by multiplying the total, 778, by the percentage. This is the reason for the discrepancy found. It is diminished by using more figures of the decimal. E.g., if we say the percentage is 2, by working back, we obtain the value 15 14/25; if we say the percentage is 2.2, we obtain the value 17 29/250; if we say the percentage is 2.185, we obtain the value 16 9,993/10,000. Each extra figure brings us closer to the value 17. An ironic sidelight on this situation is that fact that although Keyhoe is quick to criticise the Air Force figures, his own are not without blemish. As stated above, 2.2 per cent. of 778 is 17 29/250, not 17 3/25!

If there is a case that the "truth" about flying saucers is being withheld it is unfortunate that it should be supported by invalid arguments such as this. Prior to reading this section in Keyhoe's book I had tended to accept his statements at face value. After seeing it my reaction was to regard them all with a very critical eye. I imagine the reaction of other scientists would be the same.—Charles A. Stickland, 22 Roseberry Street, London, S.E.16.

Weird craft

Sir,—The weird craft—a new kind of saucer? But there are sightings in the past which tell of "wings." In November, 1953, Norwegian Tryggve Jansen told: "Beaming out from both sides we saw a sort of wings, certainly 15 m. long, which appeared to have been formed from some sort of luminous gas. When the craft was flying, these wings were lengthened and when the craft stood still they were pulled inwards and were shortened. . . ." (APRO 3/1962). And on September 24, 1959, policeman Dickerson and others reported: "The hovering disc glowed brightly, tongues of 'flame' periodically extending from the rim." (Redmond, Oregon, sighting, related by Richard Hall in his *Challenge of UFO*.) My suggestion is that the "wings" simply are jets of gas pertaining to the propulsion system. They may have caused some confusion in the descriptions of the shape of the saucers. An asymmetrical turtle shape, though, has often been reported as a fact.

The "legs" dangling below the saucer seem to serve the double purpose of landing gear and electric parts of the propulsion system (see Dr. B. E. Finch's theory, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, July-August, 1961, issue). The "beams" which penetrated the machines on all sides is something strange that eludes any comment at present. I offer the above comments for what they may be worth. — K. G. Rehn, Smedjevägen 2A, Bromma 12, Sweden.

Unknown object in space

Sir,—In the July-August issue I read an interesting paragraph on page 23 entitled "Unknown object in space." There are two short sections about this object—called 3C-273—along with four others of an apparently similar nature in the May and July editions of *Sientific American* under the heading "Science and the Citizen." Here is an extract of the two sections:

The five objects have been given the code names 3C-48, 3C-147, 3C-196, 3C-273 and 3C-286, and are listed as radio-emitting objects in the 3rd Cambridge Catalogue of Radio Sources. The Jodrell Bank astronomers discovered that they were point sources of radio-emission, in contrast to the diffuseness of most of the optical visible galaxies. The precise position of the sources was established in Australia and the U.S.A. and then superimposed upon star photographs made by the Palomar telescopes. Each of the five sources coincided with what appeared to be a fairly bright star. This surprised the astronomers because stars normally have very little radio-emission — our sun is the only star close enough to be "seen" by radio telescopes. An examination of the optical spectra of the objects made no sense at all; they could find none of the familiar absorption lines of hydrogen and the other elements found in stars.

Greenstein and Schmidt of the Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories then suggested that the objects might be galaxies and not stars as had been thought. If they were galaxies they would then show the red-shift caused by the expansion of the Universe. This turned out to

be the case, and in object 3C-273 they found that the absorption bands of hydrogen were barely recognisable and shifted right over into the yellow and red end. This enormous shift indicated that the galaxy was receding at some 30,000 miles per second, and lay at an estimated distance of some 2,600,000,000 light years. This enormous distance is estimated from the speed of recession, the two being fairly accurately proportional to each other.

The strangeness of this is that galaxies at the enormous distance of 3C-273 are normally only just visible with the 200-inch telescope at Palomar. This galaxy on the other hand is bright enough to be seen through amateur telescopes, having an apparent visual magnitude of 12.6. Smith and Hoffleit traced the photographic history of 3C-273 on plates made at Harvard Observatory from 1873 to 1963, and compared it with three other adjacent stars of known magnitude. These plates, between five and fifty of them per year, revealed a fascinating and indeed fantastic state of affairs. They plotted the mean annual magnitude and found that it showed fluctuations between 12.9 and 12.3, with a number of brief and intense " flashes " which rose as high as 11.5. It is impossible for a whole galaxy to attain uniform brightness everywhere at once—light would take thousands of years to traverse a galaxy, and therefore anything which would trigger off such an increase would require this long to involve the whole structure. 3C-273 must thus contain sub-structures—possibly unusual stars—capable of attaining an absolute brightness of about 10,000 times greater than any known supernova, which means rather more than 10,000,000,000,000 times brighter than the sun.

Of the four objects, 3C-48 has been found to have a red-shift corresponding to a recession of rather more than 30,000 miles per second and a distance of 3,600,000,000 light years or some 20,000,000,000,000,000,000 miles. This enormous distance is apparently exceeded by only one other known galaxy, which is some five to six thousand million light years away.

The spectra of the remaining three objects is still being examined and I have seen no report so far about them.—Adrian R. E. Cox, 8-10 Queensberry Place, London, S.W.7.

The Charlton Crater

Sir,—In common with many other people, I have been greatly interested by the matter of the saucer-shaped holes that have appeared on a farm in Wiltshire and also by a similar report from East Lothian.

I think I am right in saying that an article was published a year or two ago—written by Dr. Bernard Finch—stating that the magnetic properties of soil or rock would probably be changed as the result of a landing of a vehicle deriving its power from magnetic forces, and that comparatively simple tests in any given area could, therefore, indicate whether such a vehicle had landed or not. I believe this article may have been published in the REVIEW, but I have not been able to find it in the back numbers in my possession. If the argument is based on fact, however, it would be very interesting to know whether such tests have been carried out in Wiltshire and I am wondering if you would care to comment on this point.

I am writing on behalf of several people, all of whom are interested in phenomena of this kind and who regard as regrettable the fact that on so many occasions the National dailies do not appear to follow up news items which could be of considerable significance.

I also hear that similar ground markings to those in Wiltshire and East Lothian have recently been found in Holland. Do you know anything of these and, if so, where they were located?—C. J. O. Webb, 3 Cavendish Avenue, Finchley, London, N.3.

(Mr. Webb is referred to Dr. B. E. Finch's letter " Saucers leave clues " in the Mail Bag section of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, July-August, 1961, issue.)

World Round-up

continued from page 23

AUSTRALIA

Another mystery sphere found

A pair of mysterious objects found in a remote part of New South Wales will be exhibited at Broken Hill in September during festivities marking the 80th anniversary of the discovery of the silver-lead-zinc lode.

The first object, found some months ago on Boullia station, was examined by scientists at the Weapons Research Establishment, who described it as having come from an American or Soviet space vehicle.

The second object, like the first, is a sphere. It was found last Friday by a stockman, Colin Johnson, while mustering on Mount Stuart, a pastoral property 240 miles north of Broken Hill and 60 miles from Boullia station. The sphere is 16 inches in diameter and weighs 18 lb. Again, its surface appearance suggests that it was subjected to enormous heat.

This information was extracted from *Radio Australia News*, dated July 2, 1963.

More recent local sightings

February 19.—Moe, Gippsland, dairy farmer saw 25-foot saucer wih perspex band, rotating 100 feet up, in rain.

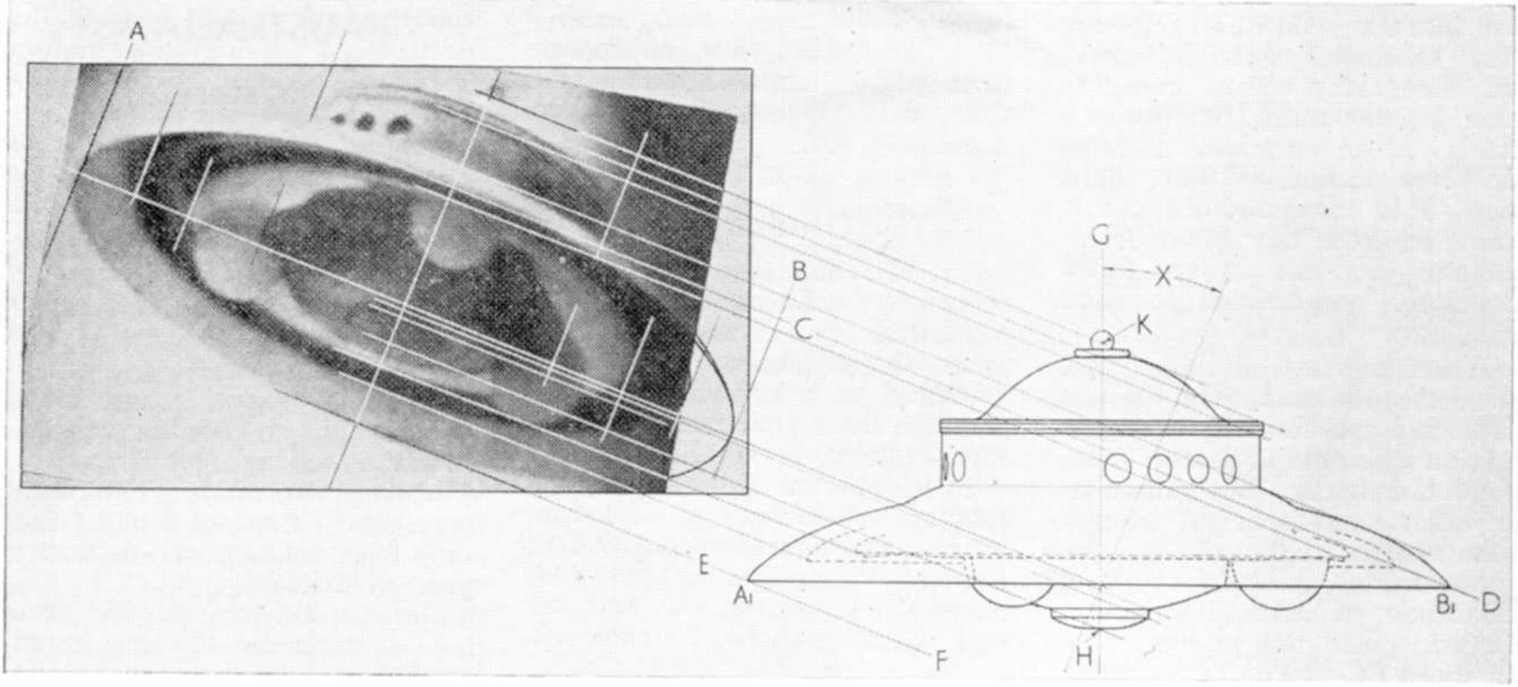
March 26.—Ballarat man saw moon-sized light moving across city.

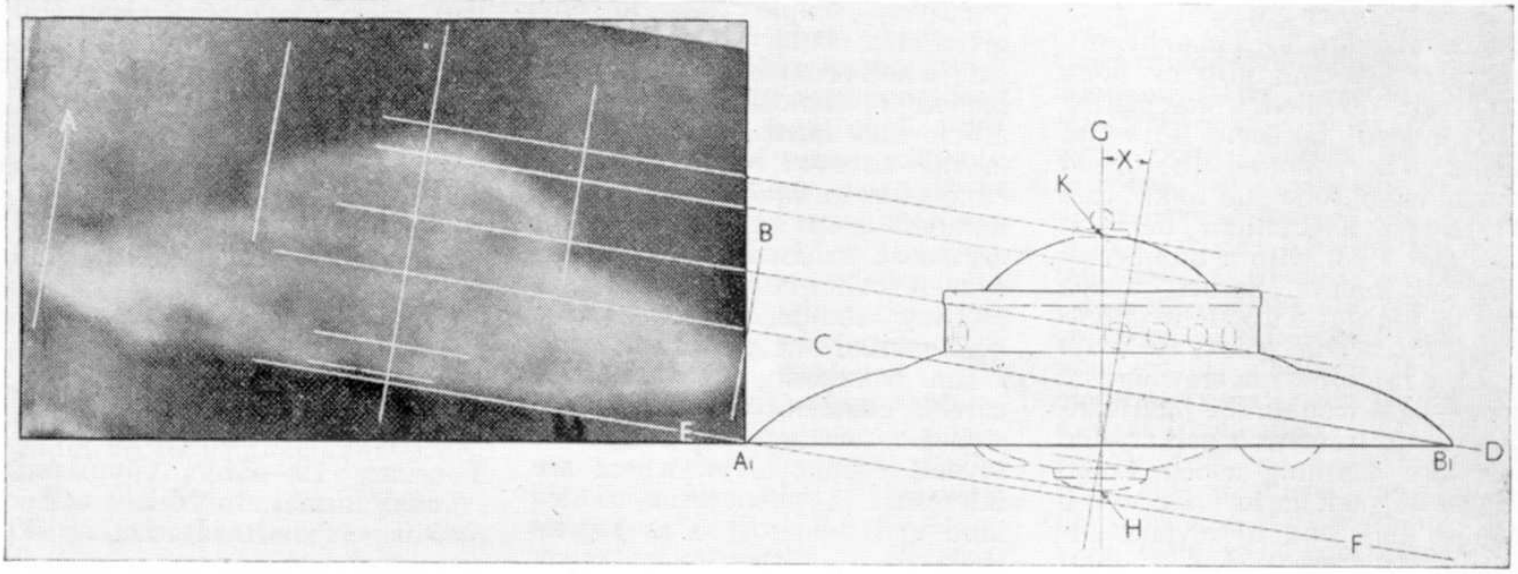
May 4.—Ballarat man saw silver sphere in morning hovering 8 miles from city. It was 100 feet up and suddenly moved off at 30 miles an hour.

May 22.—Moving light seen at Mt. Gambier, South Australia.

May 31.—Professor Bart Bok, and Dr. H. Gollnow saw bright orange-red object for one minute at Mt. Stromlo Observatory, Canberra.

ORTHOGRAPHIC PROJECTION





The illustration is an orthographic comparison of the Adamski photograph and that taken by Stephen Darbishire and described by him and his cousin, Adrian Myer, on February 15, 1954. Prior to this an almost identical object had been seen and described by Mr. F. W. Potter, an amateur astronomer and a highly respected citizen of Norwich. (See *Eastern Evening News*, October 8, 1953. A detailed sketch is provided. Only two differences need be noted. The three-ball " landing gear " is not showing and later Mr. Potter said that as the object was observed through his $3\frac{1}{2}''$ refractor telescope the object, as shown in his sketch, should be reversed.)

Critics of the Adamski photographs must either accept this corroborative evidence or produce some show of reason to support the theory that George Adamski, Stephen Darbishire, Adrian Myer, and F. W. Potter are either lying separately or in conjunction. So far the only arguments against this theory have been based on prejudice and a complete lack of supporting evidence. Until this is forthcoming the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW cannot close the Adamski file. We print the above illustration from Leonard G. Cramp's *Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer* (now out of print) for the benefit of new readers. The above facts are referred to in the leading article in this issue.

THE MOON AND THE PLANETS *by C. M. Pither*

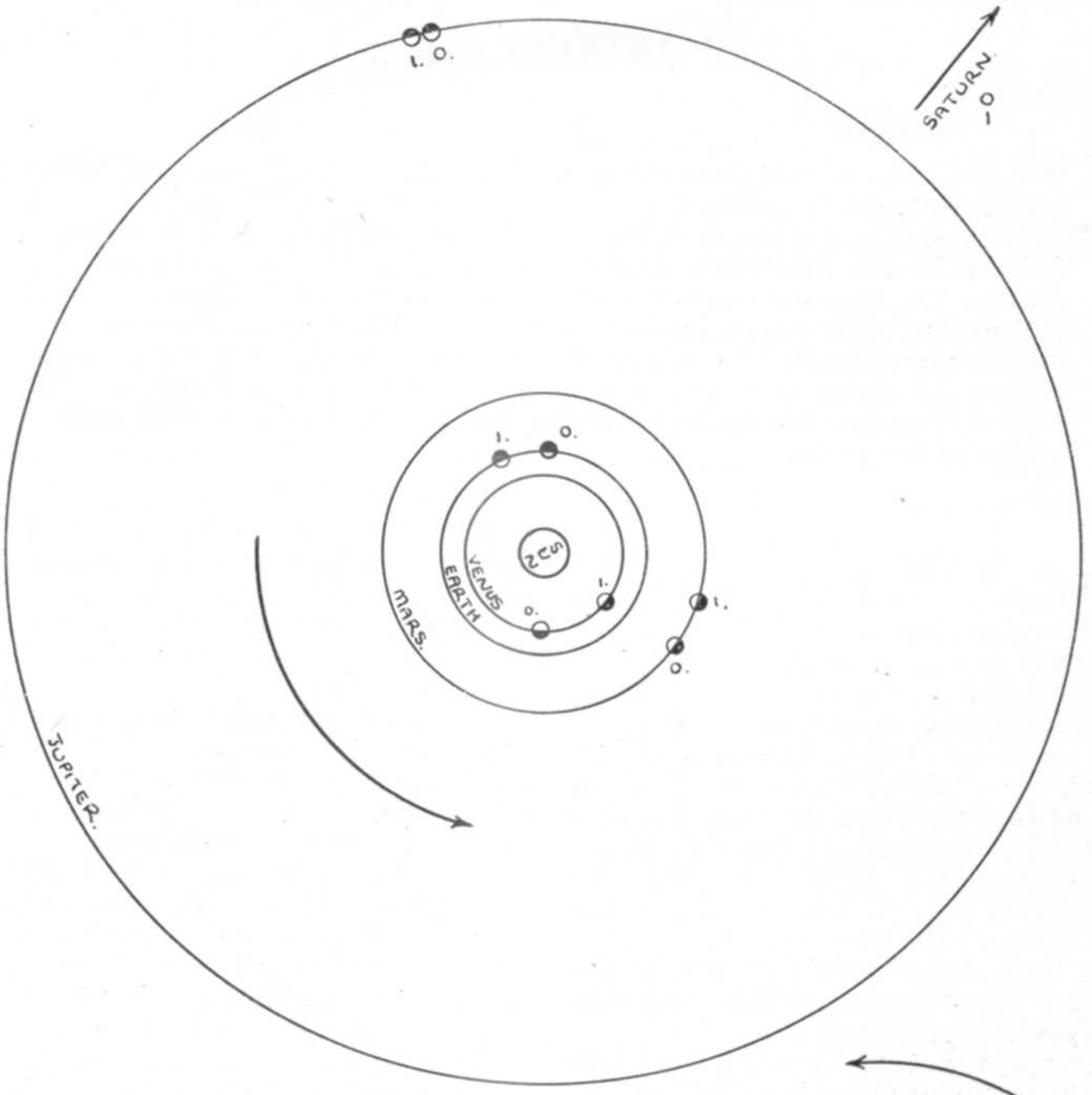


FIG. 1.

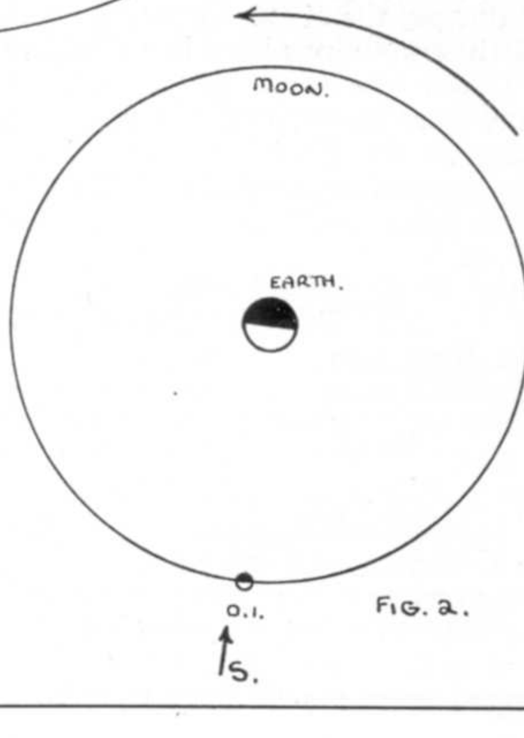


FIG. 2.

Figs. 1 and 2. O. The Moon and Planets during September.
I. The Moon and Planets during October.

In Fig. 2 it will be noted that there is only one position of the Moon for both months; this is because the phase of the Moon is the same at the middle of both months.

N.B. Opposition of Jupiter occurs on Oct. 8; this is to say that the Earth and Jupiter lie in a straight line, with the Earth at the centre; thus Jupiter is at its closest to the Earth.

"BAVIC" IN THE IBERIAN PENINSULA

BY ANTONIO RIBERA

The article on Global Orthoteny by Aimé Michel, which appeared in the May-June issue, has attracted worldwide interest. The following Spanish contribution to the subject refers to the Bayonne-Vichy line which Michel discovered and illustrated in his book *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery.* **The map was reproduced to accompany his article in the REVIEW. It consisted of six sighting points over France. The places concerned were (reading from south-west to north-east) Bayonne, Lencouacq, Tulle, Ussel, Gelles and Vichy, and the incidents all occurred on September 24, 1954. Michel later discovered that this line could be further extended until it encircled the globe.**

AFTER reading the article "Global Orthoteny" by Aimé Michel[1] and "Oui, il y a un problème soucopes volantes" by the same author[2], I tried to verify the Spanish stretch of "Bavic." I was in for a big surprise, which confirmed in the highest degree all the previous statements made by Michel. Drawn with the utmost care, the straight-line Bayonne-Serra da Gardunha on the map Firestone-Hispania, scale 1:1,250,000 (map of Spain and Portugal) and on two maps at a scale of 1:500,000 (Spain in 9 maps), similar to the Michelin maps used by Michel for France, I discovered that the orthotenic line passed through five points in the Iberian Peninsula, on every one of which important sightings have been registered many times, most of them during the 1950 visitation of Spain. Several of these sightings have been published in my book *Unknown Objects in the Skies,* and all, except one, were taken from the newspapers.

Beginning on the French border and going down in a general south-westerly direction, we find the following sightings, all situated *exactly* along "Bavic":

(1)—Altos de Gainchurizqueta, between San Sebastián and Irún. Two youngsters from Irún, who came from San Sebastián by bicycle on March 21, 1950, swore having seen a strange phenomenon, which they described as follows: "It was about 12.30 p.m. when, after a plane coming from Madrid had crossed the sky, we saw two bright points which went in a west-to-east direction; they increased in size as we looked at them. It seemed as if they were going to fall on the nearby mountain, but at a great height, which we guessed to be about 5,000 metres. However, they changed course and disappeared towards the sea, climbing at the same time. The flying objects had a metallic, glossy aspect and their speed was tremendous; we judged it to be about 1,000 km.p.h., since they remained in sight for only some eight seconds." (Cifra News Agency.)

(2)—On the next day, March 22, according to reports coming from Miranda de Ebro, during the afternoon of the previous day (i.e., the same day as the previous reported sighting), the Chemical Engineer, don Francisco P. Nanclares, and several other witnesses saw a bright object which crossed the sky at a great speed, leaving a luminous trail behind, travelling towards the Sierra de Toloño, between Alava and Rioja (i.e., in a west-to-east direction). The sighting lasted a very short time and the phenomenon was widely discussed by the local people, since they thought it to be one of the so-called "flying saucers" [sic]. (Cifra News Agency.)

(3)—Villafría Airfield, Bugos. This sighting is most important, because of the technical quality of the witnesses. They were Capt. Ruiz Gómez, head of the Weather Bureau of the Villafría Airfield, the transmissions sergeant and the officer in charge of the teletypes. On March 29, 1950, at noon, the three witnesses heard a noise similar to that made by an approaching plane. This shocked them, because no approaching plane had been reported to Villafría. Then they saw from the field tower a flying saucer coming from the SSW. When the saucer was vertically above the tower, it turned suddenly to the east. (In my orthotenic map of the Iberian Peninsula[3], a straight line beginning at Villafría pointing towards the east, crossing through Algallón, Huesca, and ending at Vich, can be seen.) This is a standard manœuvre, according to Michel, at

the "intersection points." The technicians at the airfield calculated that the "object's" speed was about 1,800 km.p.h., thrice the speed of a modern fighter (this happened in 1950, remember). Its height was between 500 and 1,000 metres over the field and its size was not very large. It was delta-shaped (several delta-shaped saucers have been reported elsewhere), similar to some U.S.A.F. planes, but much smaller; had it not been for its great speed, it could have been mistaken for an eagle. It went straight over the tower and when the observers tried to get down to see where it was going, the saucer disappeared in the horizon, leaving a weak trail behind. When it crossed over the tower, said Capt. Ruiz Gómez, it slowed its pace for some seconds; then it resumed its course to the east, disappearing very quickly.

The "Bavic" line cuts *exactly* the centre of the Villafría airfield. The possibility of chance is reduced to zero, since the points on this straight line are too many for a relatively short stretch (5 points on a stretch of some 700 kilometres, from the French border to Entroncamento, Portugal).

But we should pass on now to the following sighting, which is precisely:

(4)—Entroncamento. Prolonging the "Bavic" line to the SW., it ends in Entroncamento, the Portuguese railway junction situated at 23 km. to the SEE. of Fátima. On March 23, 1950, a sighting was reported here. On my orthotenic map of the Iberian Peninsula, Entroncamento (as if in honour of its name) is an important peripheral dispersion centre.

(5)—We have deliberately left until the end this sighting, the place of which on "Bavic" would be more to the NE. This case does not come from the Press, as do the former sightings, but I found it in a book[4]. It is so amazing that I shall merely transcribe it, letting the reader form his or her own opinion:

"Five years later (October 2, 1936), at the height of the civil war in Franco's Spain, the late Valentine Williams, well known as a novelist and a soldier in the First World War, was motoring with a Spanish bullfighter, Señor Fernández de Arzabal, and a Mr. Neil O'Malley Keyes, from the headquarters of Franco, at Burgos, to Biarritz. They were about 74 miles from San Sebastián, and in the Basque province of Guipúzcoa, and the car was speeding over a level stretch of road backed by a high mountain saddle. Suddenly, Mr. Williams's two companions uttered a simultaneous exclamation. He turned his head and saw what he at first took to be an airplane flare, or tracer bullet, streaming through the air from the mountain, and speeding on a course at right angles to that of the motor car. The phenomenon was travelling with amazing speed, east of his car, and going north.

"Said Mr. Williams:

'It was like a streamer of white smoke, heading earthwards. As it went, it burst into a *bright orange flame*. There was no sound or explosion. I cut off the engine of our car, but I heard no drone of an airplane or sound of propellers. The silence was absolute. The surrounding landscape was absolutely deserted. My watch showed the time as 4.18 p.m. (or 5.18 British Summer Time). My two companions, who saw this phenomenon a second before I did, said the white smoke was shot with a "vivid white light".'

"At Biarritz, that evening, Mr. Tom Dupree, of the British Embassy at Hendaye (just over the other side of the international railway bridge, which crosses Wellington's Bidasoa), said he had seen the same thing at San Sebastián, as he stood with his back to the sea on the playa de Onderada. He said the light was *green*. The Marqués

Sir Bernard Lovell: Steady Progress

According to the London *Daily Express* of July 16, Sir Bernard Lovell's mind continues to open and if he maintains satisfactory progress he will be forced, sooner or later, to come to terms with the flying saucer. The report reads: "Life in space? Could be," said Sir Bernard Lovell yesterday.

The director of the Jodrell Bank radio telescope said in Moscow he believed many communities of "other beings existed in different parts of the universe. The problem of making contact with them is a formidable one," he added. "It would require the pooling of the world's resources in astronomical equipment." Sir Bernard was winding up a three-week tour of Russia.

A cheaper method of achieving contact would be to stop scoffing at the case for the UFO and to consider the evidence that has accumulated. It would be an irony if we were find on Mars the evidence that has existed all the time on Earth.

de Casa Calderón saw it as a bright light falling from the sky, as he was walking in Biarritz.

"Back home in London, Mr. Williams appealed, in a well-known London daily, to any scientific people who could elucidate the mystery. Of course, he got no answer. If Mr. Valentine Williams is now looking back on mundane affairs from the land of shades—he has been dead for some years—his friendly ghost may like to hear that, fifteen years later, one man would like to tell him what he saw that day, on the plain in Guipúzcoa, was *a non-exploding or silent satellite disc* of some mysterious sort probably linked with an invisible mother craft of cosmic origin, far up in the stratosphere."

According to my calculations, the witnesses of this strange phenomenon were near Miranda de Ebro, *following exactly the "Bavic" line with their car* . . . more than twenty years before Aimé Michel discovered it! The character of the object seen is quite similar to the foo-fighters encountered by the Allied, German and Japanese pilots during the Second World War or the green fireballs reported in 1948 in the American West. In my book I gave the foo-fighters the name of "telecaptor eyes." They were the first sign of the preface of the methodical reconnaissance of the planet Earth begun in 1946-47 . . . and which has not ended yet. The question is much more serious and important than those people imagine who are not capable of imagining anything.

[1] FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, May-June, 1963, issue, pp. 3-7.

[2] *Planète*, No. 10, May-June, 1963, pp. 87-107. Paris.

[3] FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, article, "UFO Survey of Spain: More Evidence," p. 15, January-February, 1963, issue.

[4] Harold T. Wilkins, *Flying Saucers on the Attack* (Citadel Press, New York, 1954), pp. 15-16. The English edition is entitled *Flying Saucers on the Moon* (Peter Owen, 1954). The page references are the same as in the American edition.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SCEPTICISM

BY WADE WELLMAN

ABOUT eight years ago, in a light passage with a serious purpose, Waveney Girvan described the tactics of the so-called "professional" UFO sceptics in these terms:

"They all adopt the same line of argument and it is consistent. Whenever a flying saucer is reported it is always something else. It may be a weather balloon, a meteor, high-flying geese, reflections, refractions, mirages, the planet Venus — anything except a flying saucer. . . . Whenever an incident is reported in the *Daily Express* one takes it for granted that Mr. Pincher will be along next day with his high-flying geese or low-flying meteors."[1]

That is true, but Donald H. Menzel, the heavyweight champion sceptic of the English-speaking world, has improved the process. The reported objects are flying saucers, but "flying saucers" are not flying saucers after all. That is to say, we have here a generic name for various types of weather phenomena, and in this sense the UFOs are "as real as rainbows are real."

Certainly they have enough reality to interest Dr. Menzel. They have taken up at least eleven years of his spare time—time which he might have turned to far better advantage. One of the saving graces of the human mind is its pliability, but Menzel, who seems to me to have one of the most powerful intellects in America today, has now given the final proof that where UFOs are concerned his mind is completely inflexible. He is a brilliant and versatile thinker with exactly one blind spot, a major scientist whose fertile brain has uncountable open doors, along with one that is permanently closed and locked.

For now the last word has come out of Harvard; the final sentence has been written. Dr. Menzel's new book, *The World of Flying Saucers* (Doubleday & Co., Inc.)[2] has laid the ghost. As I write this article there must be scores of reviewers, in the United States and Britain, taking up pens to announce that the UFO has now been disposed of "once and for all." I truly wonder how many times this myth has been blasted "once and for all." Patrick Moore, who hands down all of his opinions *ex cathedra*, wrote in 1954 that Menzel's first book had settled the issue. Dr. Menzel knew better, for his second book on the subject has plainly been written to finish an unfinished job. His protracted campaign against the UFO — a holy war that he launched in *Look* Magazine as early as 1952 —has something about it that protests too much.

The Harvard astronomer feels, I am sure, no conscious doubts about his case. But the new book, written in collaboration with Mrs. Lyle G. Boyd, shows an occasional insecurity which probably operates just below the conscious level. The book is in places rather less than candid. Dr. Menzel proposes some case solutions that are far more imaginative than the interplanetary theory ever dreamed of being. His book will

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not explode the UFO, but it surely makes an end of the platitude that "truth is stranger than fiction."

It seems quite clear that relatively few people have been convinced either by Menzel or by the repeated USAF debunking. On the other hand, there are certainly far more sceptics than believers, and if this is partly due to the recent lack of publicity (except in England, where public interest is apparently on the rise), it is chiefly due to nothing more than human reluctance to accept a new idea. Essentially the sceptics fall into two groups, those who have made some study of the topic in order to refute it, and those who have never bothered to study it because, in Edward J. Ruppelt's words, they "positively know that all UFOs are nonsense." Incidentally, speaking of Ruppelt, it can be shown that one American magazine has deliberately falsified Ruppelt's views in the hope of vitiating his book. Siegfried Mandel of the *Saturday Review* gives a biased picture of the book in the issue for February 25, 1956:

"*The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, by Edward J. Ruppelt (Doubleday, $3.95), rehashes a good deal of old saucer literature. However, the former head of the U.S. Air Force Project Blue Book does include material which other saucer enthusiasts have conveniently overlooked or glossed over in their writing. Mr. Ruppelt shows that in a number of instances when Air Force planes raced after what they supposed to be saucer craft these were later discovered to be weather balloons. He shows that some widely accepted reports of physical contact with saucers, such as the Florida scoutmaster case, are patent fakes. . . . Mr. Ruppelt describes the painstaking analysis to which Air Force material was subjected by a body of prominent scientists, whose conclusion was that there was nothing in it to support the thesis that outer-space creatures are visiting our Earth. Yet, he is curiously indecisive in his own conclusions, leaving the door wide open to uninvited galactic guests."

This is a calculated distortion. It isn't a review, in the true sense, at all; it completely suppresses everything which Mandel thinks damaging to the sceptical position. The last sentence, implying that Ruppelt's entire case is against the interplanetary saucer, and that the author should be a "decisive" sceptic on the basis of his own report, is untrue. If anything, Ruppelt's original book (I am not speaking of the 1959 revision) was much more pro than con, as Mandel knew perfectly well. In this case a reviewer has jeopardised his own reputation for honesty in the hope of putting the opposition out of countenance.

Another method sometimes employed is the brief dismissal. Patrick Moore, though not a "professional" disbeliever, has nevertheless dabbled in UFO scepticism and has brought this particular method to perfection. Hence, in his *Story of Man and the Stars*—the British edition is titled *Suns, Myths, and Men*—Moore devotes seven pages to the UFO topic and reaches the conclusion that we cannot accept interplanetary saucers without believing that they come from the lost continent of Atlantis. He then claims that there is no evidence that Atlantis has ever existed, and on these grounds decides that there is no basis for the reality of UFOs. Finally he makes a summary statement: "We are faced with a clear-cut decision. Either we put down the stories of interplanetary saucers, near-magical powers and men from Venus to misunderstandings and mistakes, or else we reject modern science in its entirety . . . and return to the astrological and mystical cults from which the last three centuries have freed us. It is as simple as that." (Pages 182-183.)

I am sorry that I must keep attacking Moore, but his comments on the UFO show an ironclad ignorance of the subject and the statement quoted above is simply childish; Moore cannot segregate any viewpoints with which he is not in sympathy. Having ruled out astrology, the interplanetary saucer, and the continent of Atlantis, he now affirms that the three beliefs go together as naturally as the particles of an atom. This is the price one pays for disagreeing with him. I am not pleading for astrology, and really I haven't studied the question of Atlantis, but I know the difference between these theories and the UFO mystery. If, as seems obvious, Moore cannot tell the difference, someone really should explain it to him.

I have known people—such as my high school biology teacher, back in 1957 — who would not allow me to utter a sentence on this topic. My old biology teacher is the best case I can bring to mind; his word for the whole subject was "baloney," and with this term he refuted the case of Captain Thomas Mantell. Not that I argued very sharply, for this was at a boys' school in North Carolina, and in a preparatory school you learn not to talk back, even if, as quite often happens, you never learn anything else. What seems unthinkable is that a phenomenon so obvious as this, with such an obvious explanation, should be reported every year by thousands of eyewitnesses all over the globe, and yet be dismissed as sheer nonsense by the vast majority who have not personally witnessed it. Yet this is precisely the situation we are facing.

Returning to Dr. Menzel, one could ask why the astronomer is so eager to crush public belief in flying saucers. I am not a psychologist, but everyone knows that we increase our faith in any position by convincing others that we are right. And Menzel by this time has a great faith in the nonexistence of UFOs. He must have, because his reputation now leans heavily on this premise. By persuading others that his view of the matter is the true one, he probably banishes a half-conscious fear that he might, after all, be wrong, and the truth could blow up in his face. He

would certainly be made ridiculous if government secrecy were lifted at this time. Even those who accept his viewpoint have often marvelled at his long campaign against extra - terrestrial visitors.

My own feeling is that Dr. Menzel has done himself a grave injustice in the whole affair. He occupies a major scientific position, but would surely have a larger one if he had not expended so much energy trying to knock down the flying saucers. On the other hand, as Richard Hall tells me, it can safely be urged that Dr. Menzel is the only well-informed sceptic. Willy Ley, the German rocket expert, has studied the subject more than the sceptical approach customarily warrants, but he doesn't have Menzel's background in the field.

Dr. Menzel's new book fails on a great many points. It contains no reference to the orthotenic claims. It offers a preposterous explanation for "angel's hair" (pp. 220-224), arguing that the weird substance consists of spider web dropped by migrating arachnids. But, of course, there is no point in trying to reason with him. The most I can say is that, after reading this book, I see nothing in it to alter the judgment which the Air Technical Intelligence Center passed on his earlier theories more than ten years ago:

"These explanations were known to the Project, and carefully considered, long before Menzel published his theories. They explain only a small per cent. of the sightings. . . . At the request of ATIC, prominent scientists analysed Menzel's claims. None of them accepted his answers."[3] And now is the time to forget about Menzel's crusade and remember his genuine contributions to science.

[1] Girvan, *Flying Saucers and Common Sense*, pp. 30-31.

[2] Dr. Menzel's latest book is not yet available in England.

[3] Keyhoe, *Flying Saucers from Outer Space*, p. 5.

Mysterious Holes

Strange happenings in July. A 15-ft. wide crater was found near Flamborough Head, and an unidentified flying object was reported in the same area. Some schoolboys claimed to have sighted a flying saucer over Roundhay Park woods, Leeds. Further holes were found in Dorset and East Lothian. The Dorset one was only about eight feet wide, and a foot deep. But the potatoes and barley growing where it was found have not been crushed—they have simply disappeared, roots and all. A cow in a nearby field began peeling in scales, as if it had been scorched. Yesterday, yet more holes were reported, this time in Westmorland. A huge channel connects them with a river almost a mile away. One of the farmers who discovered them wonders if they have any connection with his recent loss of 40 sheep. Curiouser and curiouser.

Only one of the holes has been thoroughly examined—the Flamborough Head crater, for example, was said, rather weakly, to have been caused by lightning exploding a pocket of natural gas. Army experts, however, were called to the Dorset hole. They came to some negative conclusions—that it was caused neither by a meteorite, nor a bomb—but could go no further. Questions have been tabled in Parliament.

The Blame the Bomb movement—what will happen now the bomb is banned?—has always taken care of irregular weather, bad health, the high rate of unmarried pregnancy, and so forth. But holes are obviously the prerogative of flying saucerers. To them, there is no mystery. The holes were made by craft from other planets. Their ideas should not be dismissed too lightly. About 70,000 people have claimed to have seen flying saucers. Of course, they could all be wrong.

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